



Islander April 2012 Technology Update

MCA makes BNWAS compulsory for yachts over 150grt in LY3.

When the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) completes its review of LY2 and introduces LY3 at the 2012 Monaco Yacht Show, you will be faced with installing another new piece of kit in order to be MCA compliant. Will it ever stop? The new piece of kit is a Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System (BNWAS).

Finding out exactly what the legislation requires for your yacht is one thing, finding the budget and choosing the best value for money system from all the confusing manufacturers' claims is a much more complex task.

Do you know what BNWAS is?

BNWAS is a safety system made mandatory in amendments to SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19 and adopted on 5th June 2009 by Resolution MSC.282(86). It has not been mandatory for yachts, but will be compulsory under the new MCA LY3 Code.

"The purpose of the bridge navigational watch alarm system (BNWAS) is to monitor bridge activity and detect operator disability which could lead to marine accidents. The system monitors the awareness of the Officer of the Watch (OOW) and automatically alerts the Master or another qualified OOW if for any reason the OOW becomes incapable of performing the OOW's duties. This purpose is achieved by a series of indications and alarms to alert first the OOW and, if he is not responding, then to alert the Master or another qualified OOW. Additionally, the BNWAS may provide the OOW with a means of calling for immediate assistance if required. The BNWAS should be operational whenever the ship's heading or track control system is engaged, unless inhibited by the Master."

A Typical BNWAS System

It is important to select a system that meets the requirements of the performance standards set out by MSC.128(75) & IEC 62616 and is also approved by all the major Classification Societies.

A typical system comprises of either a bulkhead-mounted or console mounted control panel with an onboard PIR (Passive Infra-Red) movement detector. The system would be modular to accommodate any bridge size and layout with additional PIRs and/or manual resets both inside the bridge and weatherproof versions for the bridge wings.

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When will this take place?

For commercial vessels, including commercial yachts it has been compulsory to fit BNWAS on any new build passenger vessel since 1st July 2011 and to retrofit on all existing passenger vessels from 1st July 2012 or by the first survey after that date.

Any MCA LY3 compliant yacht, whether commercial or not, will have to fit BNWAS by those dates.

The Large Yacht Code LY3 is scheduled for a September 2012 launch.

The MCA's Vessel Policy Branch has outlined the future shape of the Large Yacht Code. Rather than make an amendment to the LY2 Code they have now said they will push to publish a new Code, LY3, in time for the Monaco Show in September. The LY3 Code will incorporate a number of important changes, not least the inclusion of the Marine Labour Convention's requirements for super yacht crew accommodation.

The areas relevant to technology that are under review are as follows:

Chapter 16 that deals with radio is being totally re written and will include new requirements to bring all new yachts in line with the GMDSS "sea area" concept. Existing super yachts under 300grt will continue using a "distance from a safe haven" but will face an increase in the reserve energy source from one hour to three hours.

All yachts will have to comply with long-range identification and tracking (LRIT) regulations and as already mentioned above BNWAS.

More mobile phones than toilets in India

And now for a complete change of subject, I read an interesting report from the United Nations University (UNU) last week which stated that in India, the country with the world's second-highest population, more people have access to a mobile telephone than to a toilet. The UNU were making recommendations on how to cut the number of people with inadequate sanitation.

"It is a tragic irony to think that in India, a country now wealthy enough that roughly half of the people own phones, about half cannot afford the basic necessity and dignity of a toilet," said Zafar Adeel, Director of United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health (IWEH), and chair of UN-Water, a coordinating body for water-related work at 27 UN agencies and

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their partners.

India has some 545 million cell phones, enough to serve about 45 per cent of the population, but only about 366 million people or 31 per cent of the population had access to improved sanitation in 2008!

Under- or overwhelmed by the iPad3?

Can anyone honestly tell me that they know what the new features are on an iPad3? The following story on Gizmodo.com didn't surprise me.

Gizmodo gave several people in a technology-based company an iPad 2, but told them it was the new iPad3, and asked for their comments. Perhaps not surprisingly, most people interviewed raved about the new improved screen and better features (slimmer? lighter?), before being told that actually they were holding an existing iPad2 – red faces all round. Just goes to show that Apple really doesn't need to try any more.

Apple's intention of taking the focus off the activities at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona by launching the iPad3 during the Congress seems to have worked, but by all accounts today they could launch anything at all, and people would love it.

Anyway, if you do need to know, the new iPad3 features are:

- Retina Display. Four times more pixels than iPad 2. Razor-sharp text. Richer colors.
- iSight Camera. 5-megapixel still images.
- HD Video recording in 1080p.
- Ultra-fast 4G/LTE
- IOS.
- iCloud.
- Airplay.

Congratulations to Peter and Marleen on The Islander's 15th birthday and many thanks to them for the presentation they gave me. I now know this is the 175th column I have written for this esteemed mag!! It was well after the 100th column that someone said to me "I read your article in The Islander last week". I have to say I was amazed as I didn't think anyone did!

Have a great Easter.

Roger Horner of e3 Systems

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