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Circular NI OSR 2017-02
September 2017

To all NI accredited oil spill response training providers offering IMO OPRC OSR level courses

Dear Provider,

The purpose of this Circular is to inform you of the change to the Scheme of Accreditation offered by the NI and how this will impact you as an NI Accredited Oil Spill Response training provider.

Background

Historically the NI has been able to accredit those providing IMO OPRC courses, outside of the UK, by utilising the equivalence of course levels between the UK MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) specification and those of the IMO. Providers had to demonstrate compliance with the MCA specification and then an IMO equivalent could be offered; e.g. MCA 5 gave an IMO 3 level equivalent.

These arrangements have led to some confusion about how to address local legislative requirements for countries outside of the UK and how to differentiate the programmes which are benchmarked in this way.

The current position is no longer sustainable and so a revised solution is required.

The NI are now able to offer **direct** accreditation of IMO model courses without the need for providers to meet any UK specific requirements. This solution will remove any ambiguity as providers will be able to cease delivering non-relevant UK specific material and focus on country specific material for their clients.

Training Centres should note that the UK's MCA have stated that unless a course delivered outside of the UK **fully meets the UK specification** they do not permit the use of their logo on the Certificate of issue.



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The Revised Arrangements

The new scheme will be called the “International Scheme” and you will be automatically be opted into this Scheme with effect from 1st January 2018. This date coincides with the updated IMO model courses which are due to be available soon via IMO Publications.

Should you wish to provide UK specification courses only, and not enter the International Scheme, you will need to advise the NI accordingly.

Further Information

The NI’s website will be amended to show this change very soon and will indicate the requirements for meeting accreditation, the IMO’s technical requirements summary and the fee structure for the new scheme.

Fees for the International Scheme

The new “International Scheme” will attract direct audit costs plus a yearly membership fee of £ 400 as well as a per certificate issued fee (once only) of £ 15. Fees cover the costs of running the scheme, maintaining the documentation, providing newsletters, providing for annual meetings, provide for maintenance of a perpetual “certificate issued database” for clients use and a help service.

Membership of the scheme also affords a 10% discount on IMO books and publications ordered via the NI.

Future Plans

To discuss further it is planned to hold a series of regionally base teleconferences (Americas, Europe and Far East) to explain the scheme in more detail and to answer questions that you may have. An invitation will be sent shortly.

For further information please contact Bernie Bennett, Scheme Manager at bernie.bennett@nautinst.org



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