

**Decree on Ship Surveys**  
(1123/1999; amendments up to 168/2006 included)

**Chapter 1 – General provisions**

*Section 1 – Scope of application*

- (1) Finnish ships engaged in merchant shipping shall be surveyed in accordance with this Decree.
- (2) However, this Decree does not apply to:
  - (1) ships belonging to the Defence Forces or the Frontier Guard Service, unless they are used for public-service transport of passengers or cargo;
  - (2) certain fishing vessels, the survey of which is subject to separate provisions;
  - (3) cable ferries connecting public roads, the survey of which is subject to separate provisions;
  - (4) chartered boats;
  - (5) pleasure craft; and
  - (6) vessels of 5.5 m or less in length which are type-approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration or approved in accordance with Directive 94/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to recreational craft; however, these vessels shall be reported to the Ship Inspection Division of the Finnish Maritime Administration in the area where they are used.
- (3) In case of doubt, the Finnish Maritime Administration will determine whether this Decree is applicable to the survey of a certain ship or not.
- (4) The survey of pressure vessels and liquefied gas equipment is subject to separate provisions.

*Section 2 – Definitions*

1. A *passenger ship* is a ship which carries more than 12 passengers. In determining the number, a passenger is every person other than the master and the members of the crew or other persons employed or engaged in any capacity on board the ship on the business of that ship. A child under one year of age is not considered a passenger.
2. A *cargo ship* is any ship which is not a passenger ship.
3. A *fishing vessel* is a cargo ship used for catching fish or other living resources of the sea.
4. A *tanker* is a cargo ship constructed or chiefly adapted for the carriage of liquid cargoes in bulk.
5. A *cable ferry* is a watercraft constructed with a vehicle deck, which carries the traffic of a public road across a waterway.
6. A *double-ended ferry* is a freely manoeuvrable ferry.
7. A *barge* is a vessel with no propulsion machinery of its own.
8. A *vessel type-approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration* is a vessel which, when filled with water, meets the requirements for buoyancy and stability set out in the Nordic type-approval standards for boats.

9. *Domestic voyages* are voyages between Finnish ports. Voyages to Vyborg via the Saimaa Canal and its connecting Russian inland waters, and voyages between Vihrevoj and Vyborg are considered equivalent to domestic voyages. Domestic voyages are divided into the following three traffic areas:
  - (1) traffic area I, comprising rivers, canals, ports and lakes, and areas in the inner archipelago which are not directly exposed to swell from the open sea;
  - (2) traffic area II, comprising the outer archipelago and island areas directly exposed to swells from the open sea - *inter alia*, the sea lane between Vihrevoj and Santio, the reaches of Kaunissaari and Porkkala, the Hanko western reach, the reaches of Gullkrona, Vidskär and Österskär, Skiftet and Delet, and the coastal areas of the Sea of Bothnia and the Bay of Bothnia;
  - (3) traffic area III, comprising the areas of open sea on domestic voyages.
10. *Baltic Sea trade* is traffic beyond the area of domestic voyages in the Baltic Sea proper, including the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia, with the parallel of the Skaw between Denmark and Sweden at 57° 44.8' N marking the boundary between the Baltic Sea and the North Sea.
11. *Near-coastal voyages* are voyages beyond the area of Baltic Sea trade in the North Sea and its connecting waters, but no farther west than 12°W, south than 48°N or north than 64°N.
  - 11.a. *European trade* is traffic beyond the area defined as near-coastal, but no farther west than 12°W, south than 30°N or east than 45°E. (168/2006)
12. *Worldwide trade* is traffic beyond the area defined as near-coastal and the European trade area. (168/2006)
13. *International voyages* are voyages between foreign ports, or between a Finnish port and a foreign port.
14. *Winter navigation* is navigation through a newly broken ice channel or navigation involving ramming of fast ice.
15. *Inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom* is an inspection which is carried out either when the ship is in dock or, by means of a method approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration, when the ship is in the water.
16. *Gross tonnage* is the certificated measure of the overall size of a ship determined in accordance with the provisions of Annex I to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (Treaty Series 31/1982).
17. *Date of initial survey* is the date on which the ship's hull is surveyed for the first time before the ship is put into service as a Finnish ship, or returned to service following major alterations to the ship's machinery or hull, or the date on which an equivalent survey of the hull is carried out at the owner's request.
18. *Ship's length* is 96% of the total length of the ship on a waterline at 85% of the least moulded depth measured from the top of the keel, or the length from the foreside of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that be greater. In ships designed with a rake of keel the waterline on which this is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline. In ships less than 12 m in length, the length shall equal the ship's overall length.
19. *the Directive on Classification Societies* is Council Directive 94/57/EC on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organizations and for the relevant activities of maritime administrations, as amended by Commission Directive 97/58/EC and European parliament and Council Directives 2001/105/EC and 2002/84/EC. (530/2004)
20. *Recognized classification society* is an organization recognized in conformity with article 4 of the Directive on Classification Societies.

### Section 3 – *Surveys*

- (1) The purpose of a survey is to ensure that a ship complies with the requirements of the provisions and regulations concerning ship safety as regards structure, machinery and equipment, and with the provisions and regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships.
- (2) In addition, the survey ensures that a ship engaged on international voyages, which is subject to the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (Treaty Series 11/1981) and the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (Treaty Series 35/1981), hereinafter the *1974 SOLAS Convention*, complies with the rules on hull, machinery, electrical and control installations of a recognized classification society or the regulations of the Finnish Maritime Administration which are considered equivalent.
- (3) A survey other than an initial survey carried out by a duly authorized officer of a Contracting Party to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, the Protocol of 1988 relating to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (Treaty Series 51/1983) is recognized as equivalent to a survey carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Decree.

### Section 4 – *Applications for approval of individual ships*

- (1) Applications for approval of the drawings and for the survey of new ships shall be sent to the Finnish Maritime Administration in good time.
- (2) All information required by the Finnish Maritime Administration shall be appended to the applications.
- (3) In the case of existing ships, the Finnish Maritime Administration shall be provided with the necessary information in sufficient time before the initial survey begins.

### Section 5 – *Surveyors*

- (1) Surveys are conducted by the Finnish Maritime Administration.
- (2) The Finnish Maritime Administration may authorize a recognized classification society to conduct surveys, fully or in part, on its behalf. In addition, the Finnish Maritime Administration may entrust a nominated surveyor with the survey of ships engaged on domestic voyages.
- (3) Classification societies and surveyors authorized to conduct surveys are responsible to the Finnish Maritime Administration for ensuring that surveys are carried out in conformity with the Administration's guidelines.
- (4) *Subsection 4 has been repealed.*

### Section 6 – *Right to refuse authorization to conduct surveys*

When granting authorization to a recognized classification society to conduct surveys, as referred to in section 5, the Finnish Maritime Administration may only refuse to grant such authorization to a recognized classification society established within the European Union if it has justifiable grounds for doing so.

### Section 7 – *Agreement on authorization*

- (1) The Finnish Maritime Administration makes a written agreement with the recognized classification societies it authorizes to conduct surveys. The agreement shall have a format approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration. The minimum requirement is that the agreement includes the provisions of article 6(2) of the Directive on Classification Societies.

(2) In addition, the agreement shall include the following terms:

- (1) The classification society shall nominate a representative domiciled in Finland whom it empowers to act on behalf of the classification society in court and in dealings with other authorities.
- (2) The classification society shall provide the Finnish Maritime Administration with all relevant information about their classed fleet, transfers, changes of class, suspensions and withdrawals of class. (863/2003)
- (3) The classification society must not grant a certificate to a ship that has been declassified or the class of which has been changed due to safety considerations until the classification society has consulted with the Finnish Maritime Administration on the need to carry out a full inspection.
- (4) In matters related to ships classified by it, the classification society shall co-operate with the port State authority, in particular with respect to the rectification of defects and deficiencies.
- (5) The classification society shall consult with other classification societies with a view to maintaining equivalence of technical standards and the implementation thereof in line with the provisions of IMO Resolution A.847(20) on guidelines to assist flag states in the implementation of IMO instruments. In cases of transfer of class from one recognised organisation to another, both the losing and the gaining organisation shall act in accordance with the provisions of article 15(5) of the Directive on Classification Societies. (863/2003)
- (6) The agreement shall be subject to Finnish law.

#### Section 8 – *Revocation of an authorization*

- (1) The Finnish Maritime Administration shall revoke an authorization granted by it to a recognized classification society if the recognition of the classification society has been withdrawn in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 9 of the Directive on Classification Societies. (863/2003)
- (2) The Finnish Maritime Administration may also revoke the authorization it has granted to a classification society if the classification society neglects its duty to carry out a survey in accordance with the agreement referred to in section 7.

#### Section 9 – *Suspension of an authorization*

- (1) Even if a recognized classification society complies with the requirements laid down in the Annex to the Directive on Classification Societies, the Finnish Maritime Administration may suspend its authorization if it finds that the classification society is no longer capable of conducting surveys on its behalf.
- (2) The Finnish Maritime Administration shall restore an authorization that has been suspended if the Commission of the European Communities, in accordance with the procedure set out in article 7(2) of the Directive on Classification Societies, has requested it to do so. (863/2003)

#### Section 10 – *Monitoring and issue of detailed guidelines*

- (1) The Finnish Maritime Administration shall satisfy itself that recognized classification societies perform their functions as laid down by agreement and that they meet the criteria set out in the Annex to the Directive on Classification Societies. The assessment shall be carried out on a biennial basis.
- (2) The Finnish Maritime Administration shall provide the Commission of the European Communities and Member States with the notifications required in accordance with the procedure set out in article 13 of the Directive on Classification Societies.
- (3) The Ministry of Transport and Communications shall issue necessary guidelines on fulfilment of the notification requirement set out in the Directive.

#### Section 11 – *Carrying out surveys*

- (1) Shipowners shall ensure that their ships are duly surveyed and shall arrange a date and a place for the survey with the Finnish Maritime Administration or a recognized classification society authorized by it.
- (2) The ship's master shall make sure that preparatory steps have been taken for the purpose of ensuring that the survey is carried out systematically and without delay. He shall place a sufficient number of assistants at the surveyor's disposal.
- (3) The survey shall be carried out in such a manner as to cause the ship the least possible inconvenience and delay. The results of the survey shall be recorded on a form approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration.

#### Chapter 2 – **Sea safety surveys**

#### Section 12 – *Passenger ships engaged on international voyages and passenger ships of 500 gross tonnage or more engaged on domestic voyages*

- (1) Every passenger ship engaged on international voyages and every passenger ship of 500 gross tonnage or more engaged on domestic voyages shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications to its machinery or hull; and
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within one year of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding the date referred to in paragraph 1.

#### Section 13 – *Passenger ships of less than 500 gross tonnage engaged on domestic voyages*

- (1) Every passenger ship of less than 500 gross tonnage engaged on domestic voyages shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications to its machinery or hull;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; the bottom of the ship shall, however, be inspected within two to three years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (3) an *annual survey* once every 12 months.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding or following the date referred to in paragraph 1.
- (3) Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the outside of the bottom of a passenger ship of more than 20 years of age engaged in winter navigation shall be subject to an annual survey before the ship is used again in winter navigation.

#### Section 14 – *Cargo ships engaged on international voyages and cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage or more engaged on domestic voyages*

- (1) A cargo ship engaged on international voyages and a cargo ship of 500 gross tonnage or more engaged on domestic voyages shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications to its machinery or hull;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* of the equipment and structure within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey;
  - (3) a *periodical survey* of the radio installations once every 12 months and of the equipment within two to three years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey;

- (4) an *intermediate survey* of the structure within two to three years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; the outside of the ship's bottom shall, however, be inspected at least twice within a period of five years and in such a manner that the interval between the inspections does not exceed three years; and
  - (5) an *annual survey* of the structure and equipment once every 12 months, but only in those years in which an intermediate or a periodical survey is not carried out.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding the date referred to in paragraph 1.

Section 15 – *Cargo ships of between 150 and 500 gross tonnage engaged on domestic voyages*

- (1) A cargo ship of between 150 and 500 gross tonnage engaged on domestic voyages shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications to its machinery or hull;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (3) an *annual survey* once every 12 months.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding or following the date referred to in paragraph 1.

Section 16 – *Barges*

- (1) Every barge not less than 12 m in length and every barge engaged in submarine expeditions shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish barge and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications to its appliances or hull;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; a barge engaged in winter navigation shall, however, be subject to an inspection of the outside of the bottom within two to three years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (3) an *annual survey* if the barge is engaged on international voyages, or a survey on the same scale as an annual survey once every 24 months in every other case.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding or following the date referred to in paragraph 1.

Section 17 – *Cargo ships of less than 150 gross tonnage engaged on domestic voyages*

- (1) A cargo ship of less than 500 gross tonnage engaged on domestic voyages shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications to its machinery or hull;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (3) a *survey on the same scale as an annual survey* once every two years.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding or following the date referred to in paragraph 1.

### Section 18 – *Survey of the hull of ships engaged in winter navigation*

Notwithstanding the renewal surveys mentioned in sections 14 to 17, the hull of a ship which has been engaged in winter navigation shall be subject to a survey before the ship is used again in winter navigation. This survey is, however, not necessary for ships which have been classified by a recognized classification society authorized by the Finnish Maritime Administration or for non-classified ships if the Finnish Maritime Administration has exempted them from the survey.

### Section 19 – *Initial surveys*

- (1) An initial survey shall include a complete inspection of the structure, machinery and equipment, including the outside of the ship's bottom and the inside and outside of the boilers.
- (2) The survey must provide assurance:
  - (1) with regard to the structural safety of the ship, that the general arrangement, materials and dimensions, boilers and other pressure vessels and their appurtenances, main and auxiliary machinery, steering gear and electrical installations;
  - (2) with regard to the safety of the equipment, that life-saving appliances, fire protection, fire detection and fire extinguishing systems and appliances and inert gas systems, radar installations, echo sounding devices, gyro compasses, pilot ladders, mechanical pilot hoists and other equipment;
  - (3) that radio installations, including those used in life-saving appliances, fully comply with the requirements on the safety of ships and the requirements of international treaties binding on Finland with respect to the service for which the ships are intended. The survey must also ensure that the workmanship of all parts of the ship is in all respects satisfactory and that the ship is provided with the lights, shapes, means of making sound signals and distress signals as required by the relevant provisions and regulations.
- (3) In addition, initial surveys of cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage or more which are transferred to the Finnish Register of Ships from a register of another state within the European Economic Area shall, to the extent appropriate, be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 613/91 on the transfer of ships from one register to another within the Community.

### Section 20 – *Renewal surveys*

- (1) A renewal survey shall include an inspection of the structure and equipment, including the outside of the ship's bottom.
- (2) The survey must provide assurance:
  - (1) with regard to the structural safety of the ship, that boilers and other pressure vessels and their appurtenances, main and auxiliary machinery, steering gear and electrical installations;
  - (2) with regard to the safety of the equipment, that life-saving appliances, fire protection, fire detection and fire extinguishing systems and appliances, radar installations, echo sounding devices, gyro compasses, pilot ladders, mechanical pilot hoists and other equipment;
  - (3) that radio installations, including those used in life-saving appliances, are in satisfactory condition and fit for the service for which the ship is intended and that they fully comply with the provisions and regulations in force and the requirements of international treaties binding on Finland.
- (3) The survey must also ensure that the ship is provided with the lights, shapes, means of making sound signals and distress signals required by the relevant provisions and regulations.

### Section 21 – *Periodical surveys and intermediate surveys*

- (1) The periodical survey must provide assurance on the following matters: that fire protection, fire safety systems and appliances, life-saving appliances and arrangements, radio installations, shipborne navigational equipment, pilot ladders, mechanical pilot hoists and their arrangements and other equipment required by the 1974 SOLAS Convention are in satisfactory condition and fit for the service for which the ship is intended. The survey must also ensure that the ship is provided with a fire control plan, nautical charts, nautical publications, lights, shapes, means of making sound signals and distress signals required by the relevant provisions and regulations.
- (2) The intermediate survey must ensure that the ship's structure, boilers and other pressure vessels, their appurtenances, main and auxiliary machinery including steering gear and associated control systems, electrical installation and other equipment are in satisfactory condition. Such surveys shall, in the case of tankers, ensure that the pumprooms, cargo and bunker piping systems, vent piping, pressure vacuum valves, flame screens and the electrical installations in dangerous zones are such that the conditions for granting a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate are fulfilled and that the ship can safely be used. In addition to the visual inspection of the electrical installation, the insulation resistance of the electrical equipment in dangerous zones must be tested. If, upon examination, there should be any doubt as to the condition of the piping, extra measures, such as pressure tests and thickness determination, shall be taken as necessary.
- (3) The intermediate survey shall also include an inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom. The period between such inspections must not, however, exceed three years.

### Section 22 – *Annual surveys*

At the annual survey, the surveyor shall by visual inspection ensure that the ship's structure, machinery and equipment have been maintained in such a manner that the seaworthiness established at the previous survey has been preserved, and shipborne equipment or installations approved by administrative decision have not been removed or replaced without the sanction of the relevant authorities.

### Section 23 – *Other survey measures*

- (1) In conjunction with the surveys referred to in section 18 to 22 or on the basis of them:
  - (1) the ship's trade area shall be determined from amongst the categories of domestic voyages (traffic areas I, II and III), Baltic Sea trade, near-coastal voyages, European trade, worldwide trade and international voyages; (168/2006)
  - (2) the ship's fitness for winter navigation shall be determined;
  - (3) the existence of valid safety certificates and other relevant certificates, documents and statutes on board shall be verified;
  - (4) confirmation shall be obtained as to the proper manning of the ship and the competence of the crew;
  - (5) the compliance of the ship's deck and load lines with the relevant provisions shall be verified;
  - (6) confirmation shall be obtained that the ship is seaworthy in every other respect; and
  - (7) with respect to passenger ships, the maximum number of passengers shall be determined. This number must not exceed the number applied for by the owner or master of the ship.
- (2) When a ship is engaged exclusively on voyages between foreign ports, the Finnish Maritime Administration may, with due consideration to the nature of the trade, rule that such voyages shall be considered equivalent to comparable trade of a more limited nature.

## Chapter 3 – Surveys for prevention of marine pollution

### Section 24 – Mandatory surveys

- (1) Oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage or more and other ships of 400 gross tonnage or more shall, in addition to the surveys provided for in chapters 2, 5 and 6, be subject to surveys as prescribed in this chapter.
- (2) In the case of other ships than those referred to in paragraph 1, confirmation shall be obtained, in a manner approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration, that oil which collects in the ship's bottom is not discharged in contravention of the provisions and regulations regarding the prevention of marine pollution.

### Section 25 – Surveys

- (1) A ship referred to in section 24 shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before the ship is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey;
  - (3) an *intermediate survey* within two to three years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (4) an *annual survey* once every 12 months.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding the date referred to in paragraph 1.

### Section 26 – Initial and renewal surveys

Initial surveys and renewal surveys must ensure that the pump and piping systems, bilge water system, oil discharge monitoring and control systems, crude oil washing systems, water ballast capacity, tank capacity, water ballast distributions, waste oil holding tanks and other equipment fully comply with the requirements of the provisions and regulations on the safety of ships and marine pollution prevention and the requirements of international treaties binding on Finland, with respect to the service for which the ship is intended.

### Section 27 – Intermediate surveys

The intermediate survey must ensure that the equipment and associated pump and piping systems, including oil discharge monitoring and control systems, crude oil washing systems, oily-water separating equipment and oil filtering systems, fully comply with the requirements of the provisions and regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships.

### Section 28 – Annual surveys

The annual survey must ensure that the ship has been maintained in the condition established at the previous survey and that shipborne equipment or installations approved by the relevant authorities have not been removed or replaced without their authorization.

## Chapter 4 – Surveys of chemical tankers and gas carriers

### Section 29 – Mandatory surveys

Chemical tankers and gas carriers shall, in addition to the surveys provided for in chapters 2, 3, 5 and 6, be subject to surveys as prescribed in this chapter.

### Section 30 – *Surveys*

- (1) Every chemical tanker and gas carrier shall be subject to:
- (1) an *initial survey* before it is employed for the carriage of dangerous liquid chemicals or condensed gases for the first time;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey;
  - (3) an *intermediate survey* within two to three years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (4) an *annual survey* once every 12 months.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding the date referred to in paragraph 1.

### Section 31 – *Initial and renewal surveys*

Both the initial and the renewal survey shall ensure that the ship's structure, equipment, systems, fittings, arrangements and material comply with the specific requirements for chemical tankers and gas carriers.

### Section 32 – *Intermediate surveys*

An intermediate survey must ensure that the ship's safety equipment and appliances, including pump and piping systems, comply with the relevant provisions and regulations and are in good working condition.

### Section 33 – *Annual surveys*

An annual survey must ensure that the condition established at the previous survey has been maintained and that shipborne equipment or appliances approved by the relevant authorities have not been removed or replaced without their authorization.

## Chapter 5 – **Survey of sewage systems**

### Section 34 – *Mandatory surveys*

Ships of 200 gross tonnage or more and ships that have been approved for the carriage of more than 10 persons shall be subject to surveys in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

### Section 35 – *Surveys*

- (1) A ship referred to in section 34 shall be subject to:
- (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding the date referred to in paragraph 1.

### Section 36 – *Initial and renewal surveys*

Initial and renewal surveys must ensure that the ship is equipped with a sewage treatment plant or holding tank approved by the Finnish Maritime Administration and that the tank capacity and the other equipment fully complies with the requirements of the provisions and regulations regarding ship safety and marine pollution prevention and international treaties binding on Finland, with respect to the service for which the ship is intended.

## Chapter 6 – Load line surveys

### Section 37 – Surveys

- (1) A ship of not less than 24 m in length shall be subject to:
  - (1) an *initial survey* before it is put into service as a Finnish ship and before it is returned to service following major alterations and modifications affecting its load line;
  - (2) a *renewal survey* within five years of the initial survey or the previous renewal survey; and
  - (3) an *annual survey* once every 12 months.
- (2) The renewal survey shall be held within the three months preceding the date referred to in paragraph 1.

### Section 38 – Initial and renewal surveys

Initial and renewal surveys shall ensure that the ship's structure, equipment, arrangements, material and dimensioning comply with the requirements of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (Treaty Series 52/1968) and the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto or the requirements of the Decree on the Freeboard of Vessels Engaged on Domestic Voyages (855/1988). A load line in accordance with the Agreement on Load Lines in the Baltic Sea (Treaty Series 26/1988) may also be determined in conjunction with the initial survey.

### Section 39 – Annual surveys

An annual survey must ensure that no alteration or modification has been made to the ship which would affect the calculations determining the position of the load line and that the fittings and appliances for the protection of openings, guard rails, freeing ports and means of access to crew's quarters are maintained in an effective condition. In the case of ships engaged on domestic voyages, annual surveys shall be carried out in conjunction with the sea safety survey.

## Chapter 7 – Miscellaneous provisions

### Section 40 – Determination of the date of survey

- (1) After the initial survey, each successive survey shall be carried out at the prescribed time, as calculated from the date of the initial survey.
- (2) During a transitional period laid down by the Finnish Maritime Administration, the dates of surveys for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate, International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate, Certificates of Fitness for Chemical Tankers and Gas Carriers, Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate and Load Line Certificate shall be altered to coincide with the survey intervals determined on the basis of the date of the initial survey.
- (3) Intermediate, annual and periodical surveys may be carried out within three months preceding or following the relevant date. An annual survey need not be carried out if the vessel is subject to a renewal, intermediate or periodical survey.
- (4) An additional survey may be carried out whenever any important repairs are made, or after an accident, or when deficiencies have been detected on board ship, or in other special circumstances.

### Section 40a – Additional survey (168/2006)

- (1) An additional survey may be carried out if major repairs are made, or after an accident, or when deficiencies have been detected on board, or if some other special reason so requires.

- (2) If a ship's navigation or propulsion is controlled with an integrated system the shipowner is obliged to present at the additional survey an operator's manual and, in order to explain functions not included in the manual, a protocol of a system test carried out or commissioned by the manufacturer of the equipment. If the shipowner does not present a test protocol, the Finnish Maritime Administration may, having heard the shipowner, ask an independent research institution to test the system at the shipowner's cost.

#### Section 41 – *Extension of the validity of certificates*

- (1) If a certificate other than a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate has been issued for a period of less than five years, the Finnish Maritime Administration may extend the validity of the certificate to the maximum period of five years, provided that the annual, intermediate and periodical surveys have been carried out as appropriate.
- (2) If a renewal survey has been completed before the date of expiry of the existing certificate and a new certificate cannot be obtained in time, the Finnish Maritime Administration may extend the validity of the existing certificate for a maximum period of five months.
- (3) If at the time a certificate expires the ship is not in a port in which it can be surveyed, the Finnish Maritime Administration may extend the period of validity of the certificate, but this extension may only be granted to allow the ship to complete its voyage to a port in which it can be surveyed and only for a period of three months. The ship must not leave the port without a new certificate, and the validity of the new certificate must be calculated from the expiry date of the existing certificate.
- (4) A certificate issued to a ship engaged on short voyages for which the renewal survey cannot be arranged as provided in this section may be extended by the Finnish Maritime Administration for a period of up to one month. The validity of the new certificate must be calculated from the expiry date of the existing certificate.
- (5) If a ship engaged on domestic voyages cannot be surveyed within the survey interval provided for in this Decree without causing the ship unreasonable inconvenience or delay, the Finnish Maritime Administration may extend the validity of the certificate to a date when the survey can be completed. The extension period must not, however, extend beyond the end of the ship's sailing season.

#### Section 42 – *Maintenance of conditions after survey*

After any survey of the ship has been completed, no changes shall be made in the structural arrangements, machinery, equipment or other items covered by the survey without the sanction of the Finnish Maritime Administration.

#### Section 43 – *Renewal or expiry of certificates*

- (1) A ship's certificate must be renewed whenever the name of the ship or the name of the port of registry is changed.
- (2) The certificate shall cease to be valid if it has no entry for a prescribed annual, intermediate or periodical survey or if alterations or modifications have been made to the ship in contravention of section 42 or if the ship is transferred to the register of another State.

#### Section 44 – *Deficiencies detected at surveys*

When a defect or deficiency is detected during survey, the surveyor shall duly inform the master or owner of the ship, set a date by which the defect or deficiency must be rectified and make appropriate entries on the survey form. The Finnish Maritime Administration must be informed within the indicated time that the defect or deficiency has been rectified.

#### Section 45 – *Detention and prohibition on use of a ship*

Provisions concerning detention of a ship, prohibition on use of a ship, use of executive assistance in coercive action and leave to appeal on these matters are contained in the Act on the Supervision of the Safety of Ships (370/1995).

#### Section 46 - *Certificates of survey, safety certificates and other certificates*

- (1) Upon completion of the surveys referred to in chapters 2 to 6, the following survey certificates, safety certificates and other certificates shall be issued (unless substantial deficiencies have been detected at the survey, or upon the rectification of such deficiencies), or an entry shall be made on the certificates to the effect that the periodical, intermediate or annual survey has been completed:
  - (1) a survey certificate endorsed by the Finnish Maritime Administration; the survey certificate or a copy thereof shall be posted up in a prominent and accessible place in the ship;
  - (2) a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate for passenger ships engaged on international voyages;
  - (3) a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate and a Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate for cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage or more engaged on international voyages;
  - (4) a Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate for cargo ships of 300 gross tonnage or more engaged on international voyages;
  - (5) an International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate;
  - (6) an International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate for ships engaged on international voyages and carrying 50 persons or more;
  - (7) a Certificate of Fitness for Chemical Tankers and Gas Carriers and an International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk;
  - (8) a load line certificate; and
  - (9) an International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate. (12.5.2005/293)
- (2) If a survey is carried out by a recognized classification society duly authorized by the Finnish Maritime Administration, the society may also issue an interim certificate or safety certificate. A certificate from the Finnish Maritime Administration or an authority mentioned in section 3, paragraph 3 above must, however, be acquired within five months of the survey.

#### Section 47 – *Exemptions*

- (1) The Finnish Maritime Administration may, in individual cases, grant a ship exemption from certain provisions of this Decree, or the regulations issued by virtue of it, if it finds application of the provisions or regulations unreasonable. Such exemptions must not, however, be contrary to international treaties binding on Finland.
- (2) The exemptions shall have the same periods of validity as the corresponding certificates.

#### Section 48 – *Survey fees*

Survey fees and dues are subject to separate provisions.

#### Section 49 – *Entry into force*

- (1) This Decree enters into force on January 1, 2000.
- (2) This Decree repeals the Decree on Ship Surveys of September 16, 1983 (748/1983), as amended, and the Decree on Ships' Load Lines of March 30, 1973 (288/1973).