

CAYMAN ISLANDS



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**THE MERCHANT SHIPPING  
(SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT) LAW, 1991  
(Law 5 of 1991)**



Passed by the Legislative Assembly this 21st day of February, 1991.

**SYBIL McLAUGHLIN**  
Speaker

**GEORGETTE MYRIE**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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FIRST SCHEDULE (Section 6 (6))

SECOND SCHEDULE (Section 13(1))

Type of Launch and Recovery System	Fixed or Mobile	Safe Working Load	Maximum Sea State for Which System is Certified

Identification	Year of Build	Limiting Conditions of Operation

Parent Craft

Name	Official Number	Port of Registry

This is to certify that the above-mentioned launch and recovery system has been duly surveyed in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft Construction Equipment and Survey) (Cayman Islands) Regulations, 1991, and that the system is certified for the launch and recovery of submersible craft of total weight not exceeding\_\_\_\_\_tonnes in sea states up to and including sea state\_\_\_\_\_.

This certificate shall remain in force, unless previously cancelled, until the\_\_\_\_\_ day of\_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_ subject to an intermediate inspection being carried out at not less than 9 months and not more than 15 months from the date of issue of this certificate.

Issued this\_\_\_\_\_ day of\_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_.

Chief Marine Surveyor

with the total number of persons stated above.

This certificate will remain in force, unless previously cancelled, until the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ subject to an intermediate inspection being carried out not less than 9 months and not more than 15 months from the date of issue of this certificate.

Issued this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

Chief Marine Surveyor

**Notes:** (1) Includes passengers  
(2) Includes ballast weights and occupants. For weights added externally, their "in water" weight applies.

Submersible Craft-Supporting Equipment Safety Construction Certificate

Issued pursuant to Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft) Law, 1991.

Owner or Operator
Address
Supporting Equipment -- Launch and Recovery System

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Law 5 of 1991

I Assent

ALAN SCOTT  
Governor

25th March 1991

A LAW TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE  
REGISTRATION AND CONTROL OF SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT  
AND TO CONFER POWER ON THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL  
TO MAKE REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING STANDARDS FOR  
THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT, SURVEY AND  
OPERATION OF SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT AND  
SUPPORTING APPARATUS AND FOR MATTERS  
INCIDENTAL AND CONNECTED THERETO

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Cayman Islands.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Short title and  
commencement.

1. (1) This Law may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft) Law, 1991.
- (2) (a) Except for sections 4, 18(1) and 18(2), the provisions of this Law shall come into force on the 1st day of April, 1991.
- (b) Sections 4, 18(1) and 18(2) shall come into force on the 1st day of June, 1991.

Interpretation.

2. In this Law, except where the context otherwise requires –

"apparatus" includes any vessel, vehicle or hovercraft, any structure, any diving plant or equipment and any other form of equipment;

"casualty" means –

- (a) loss or presumed loss or abandonment of or damage to submersible craft or supporting apparatus; or
- (b) loss of life or serious injury to any person occurring in the course of the launch, recovery, operation or support of a submersible craft or supporting apparatus; or
- (c) any incident involving serious danger to the life or health of any person in a submersible craft;

"Cayman Islands ship" means a ship –

- (a) registered in the Cayman Islands' register of ships kept by the Registrar of Shipping under section 5 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, as in force in the Cayman Islands ; or
- (b) not registered under the law of any country but in which ship a majority interest is owned by persons each of whom is a citizen of the Islands or a body corporate which is established under the law of the Islands and has its principal place of business in a part of the Islands;

"Chief Marine Surveyor" means the person appointed as such under section 69 of the Merchant Shipping Law, or any person appointed by him to act on his behalf;

"citizen of the Cayman Islands" means a person who is a British Dependent Territory citizen by virtue of a connection with the Cayman Islands;

"diving bell" means any compression chamber which is capable of being manned and is used or designed for use under the surface of water in supporting human life, being a chamber in, which any occupant is or may be subjected to a pressure of more than 300 millibars above atmospheric pressure during normal operation;

"Governor" means the Governor in Council;

"Merchant Shipping Act, 1970" means the Merchant Shipping Act, 1970, of the United Kingdom as it applies to the Islands;

"Merchant Shipping Act, 1988" means the Merchant Shipping Act, 1988, of the United Kingdom as it applies to the Islands;

Law No. 23 of 1987.

Submersible craft safety construction certificate.

(Issued under section 13 of the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft) Law 1991.

Owner or Operator Address					
Name or Identification Number		Registration Number	Description of Craft	Year of Build	
Number of Occupants		Emergency Life-Support Man Hours		Maximum Submerged Payload (2)	List Weight Displacement
Crew (1)	Divers	Crew (1)	Divers		
Limiting Conditions of Operation					

This is to certify that the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft Construction, Equipment and Survey) (Cayman Islands) Regulations, 1991, have been complied with and that this submersible craft is fit to dive to a depth of \_\_\_\_\_ metres

(b) the words "the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft) Law, 1991" shall be substituted for the words "this Law" wherever they occur.

Non-application of the Merchant Shipping Law.

23. The provisions of the Merchant Shipping Law and any orders, rules and regulations made under it shall not apply to any submersible craft registered in the register of submersible craft.

Schedule 1 (Section 6(6))

PARTICULARS AND DETAILS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION OF SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT

A. General description of submersible craft (standard configuration) –

Name of craft (if applicable):

Particulars of registration as a ship (if applicable):

Builder:

Designer:

Owner:

Representative Person:

Operator:

Date of build or launch:

Overall dimensions:

Estimated collapse depth:

B. Classification –

(i) Name of Classification Society under whose surveillance the craft was built:

(ii) Class awarded and date.

C. Drawing showing layout, principal parts and construction materials of the craft with general description.

"Merchant Shipping Law" means the Merchant Shipping (Applicable Conventions) Law, 1987;

"owner" means the owner for the time being of any submersible craft;

"pressure hull" means the pressure resistant structure of a submersible craft which is subject to pressure differential during service conditions;

"register of submersible craft" means the register maintained by the Registrar of Shipping in accordance with section 5;

"submersible craft" means any description of manned mobile submersible apparatus, not being a diving bell, which is designed to maintain some or all of its occupants at or near atmospheric pressure including free, self-propelled, tethered, towed or bottom contact propelled apparatus and atmospheric diving suits;

"supporting apparatus" means any apparatus used, or designed for use, in connection with the operation of any submersible craft.

Application of this Law.

3. (1) Subject to subsection (3), this Law applies to any submersible craft –

- (a) a majority interest in which is owned by persons each of whom is a citizen of the Cayman Islands or a body corporate established under the law of the Islands and has its principal place of business in the Islands; or
- (b) which is operated within waters which are adjacent to the Islands and which are within the seaward limits of the territorial waters of the Islands; or
- (c) which is launched, recovered, operated or supported from a Cayman Islands ship; or
- (d) any other submersible craft which is registered in the register of submersible craft under Part III.

(2) This Law applies to any supporting apparatus which is used in connection with a submersible craft to which this Law applies.

(3) The Governor may grant exemptions from all or any of the provisions of this Law or any regulations made under it (as may be specified in the exemption) for classes of cases or individual cases on such terms (if any) as he may specify and may, subject to giving reasonable notice, alter or cancel any such exemption.

## PART II - RESTRICTION ON OPERATION

Restriction on the operation of submersible craft.

### 4. (1) Every submersible craft –

- (a) in which a majority interest is owned by persons each of whom is a citizen of the Cayman Islands or a body corporate established under the law of the Islands and having its principal place of business in the Islands; or
- (b) which is operated within waters which are adjacent to the Islands and which are within the seaward limits of the territorial waters of the Islands; or
- (c) which is launched, recovered, operated or supported from a Cayman Islands ship;

shall –

- (i) be registered in the register of submersible craft pursuant to Part III; and
- (ii) have in force in respect of it a safety certificate issued under Part IV.

(2) A submersible craft which is required by virtue of subsection (1) to be registered in the register of submersible craft and to have in force in respect of it a safety certificate issued under Part IV shall not be launched, recovered, operated or supported unless it is so registered and has such a safety certificate in force in respect of it.

### (3) A supporting apparatus shall not be –

- (a) operated within waters which are adjacent to the Islands and which are within the seaward limits of the territorial waters of the Islands; or
- (b) launched, recovered, operated or supported from a Cayman Islands ship;

unless –

- (i) the submersible craft which the supporting apparatus is used to support is registered in the register of submersible craft pursuant to Part III; and
- (ii) there is in force in respect of such submersible craft and the supporting apparatus a safety certificate issued under Part IV.

Islands and which are within the seaward limits of the territorial waters of the Islands shall, unless the contrary be proved, be sufficient evidence that the thing, if otherwise proved, was done or situated within such waters.

(3) Any proceedings for an offence under this Law or regulations made under it may be taken, and the offence be treated for all incidental purposes as having been committed, in any place in the Islands.

(4) This Law and any regulations made under it shall apply to persons, whether or not citizens of the Cayman Islands, and to companies, whether or not incorporated under the law of the Islands.

Service of notices.

21. (1) Any notice required to be served by the Governor under this Law may be served by post.

(2) Any notice to be served by the Governor under this Law on the owner of any submersible craft shall, where two or more persons are shown in the register of submersible craft, be treated as duly served if served on any one of those persons.

Cap. 70.

(3) For the purpose of section 52 of the Interpretation Law (service of documents by post) a letter containing –

- (a) a notice to be served on any person under subsections (1) and (2), or
- (b) a notice to be served on a representative person under section 20(1),

shall be deemed to be properly addressed if it is addressed to that person at the address for the time being recorded in relation to him in the register of submersible craft; and a letter containing any other notice to which subsection (1) applies shall be deemed to be properly addressed if it is addressed to the last-known address of the person to be served (whether of his residence or of a place where he carries on business).

Detention.

22. (1) Any submersible craft to which this Law applies and which is launched, recovered, operated or supported in contravention of section 4(1) and any supporting apparatus operated in connection with it shall be liable to be detained.

(2) Sections 74 to 76 of the Merchant Shipping Law shall have effect in relation to a submersible craft detained under this Law and for the purpose of applying those sections –

- (a) the words "submersible craft" shall be substituted for the word "ship" wherever it occurs, except when the vessel to be detained may properly be described as a ship within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Law: and



be operated or is otherwise concerned in the operation of supporting apparatus in contravention of section 4(3) shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.

(3) Any person who contravenes sections 6(1), 6(2), 6(3)(b), 8, 11 or 15 shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars in respect of any one contravention.

(4) In any proceedings for an offence under this Law it shall be a defence for the person charged with the offence to prove –

- (a) that he exercised all due diligence to prevent commission of the offence; and
- (b) that the offence was committed without his consent, connivance or default.

Offences by officers of bodies corporate.

19. (1) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under this Law or any regulations made under it, and that offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

Service of documents in proceedings.

20. (1) Any document required or authorised, by virtue of any statutory provision, to be served for the purpose of the institution of, or otherwise in connection with, proceedings for an offence under this Law or regulations made under it shall, where the person to be served is the owner of a submersible craft to which this Law applies, be treated as duly served on him if –

- (a) delivered to any representative person for the time being appointed in relation to the submersible craft; or
- (b) sent to any such person by post at the address notified (or, as the case may be, last notified) to the Registrar of Shipping under section 8(b) in relation to that person; or
- (c) left for any such person at that address.

(2) In any proceedings for an offence under this Law or regulations made under it an averment in any process of the fact that anything was done or situated within waters which are adjacent to the

PART III - REGISTRATION, ETC.

Register of submersible craft.

5. (1) The Registrar of Shipping shall maintain a register of submersible craft.

(2) Without prejudice to the power of the Registrar of Shipping to register any submersible craft in the register of submersible craft, every submersible craft to which this Law applies by virtue of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of section 3(1) shall be registered in accordance with this Law.

(3) The Registrar of Shipping shall not be liable in damages or otherwise for any loss accruing to any person by reason of any act done or default made by him in connection with the maintenance of the register of submersible craft, unless the same has happened through his neglect or wilful act.

Registration of submersible craft.

6. (1) Any person who, at the date on which this Part comes into operation, is the owner of any submersible craft which is required to be registered in the register of submersible craft under section 5(2) shall, within 3 months of that date, make an application in writing to the Registrar of Shipping, for the registration of the submersible craft.

(2) Any person who, after the date on which this Part comes into operation, becomes the owner of a submersible craft which is required to be registered in the register of submersible craft under section 5(2) shall forthwith make an application in writing to the Registrar of Shipping for the registration of the submersible craft, or, if such application has already been made, forthwith notify the Registrar of Shipping that he has become the owner.

(3) Subject to subsection (5), the owner of a submersible craft shall –

- (a) before making an application for registration, appoint an individual or a body corporate satisfying the prescribed requirements to be the representative person in relation to the submersible craft; and
- (b) secure that, so long as the submersible craft remains registered, an individual or body corporate satisfying those requirements is so appointed.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) the prescribed requirements are that the representative person is either –

- (a) an individual resident in the Islands; or
- (b) a body corporate incorporated in the Islands and having its principal place of business in the Islands.

(5) The provisions of subsection (3) shall not apply if the owner of the submersible craft is either –

- (a) an individual resident in the Islands; or
- (b) a body corporate incorporated in the Islands and having its principal place of business in the Islands.

Schedule 1.

(6) Any application for the registration of a submersible craft shall contain the particulars set out in Schedule 1 and, where a representative person is required to be appointed under this Law, the name and address of the representative person.

(7) There shall be payable in respect of an application for the registration of a submersible craft such fee as may from time to time be specified by the Governor.

(8) Upon receiving an application for the registration of a submersible craft which complies with the requirements of subsections (6) and (7), the Registrar of Shipping, if satisfied that the submersible craft may properly be so registered, shall, subject to section 7, assign to the submersible craft a number and shall register it in the register of submersible craft and the particulars set out in subsection (10) shall be entered with such registration.

(9) Upon the registration of a submersible craft the Registrar of Shipping shall issue to the owner making the application for registration a certificate of registration, upon which shall be entered the particulars set out in subsection (10).

(10) The particulars to be entered in the register of submersible craft and upon the certificate of registration are the following —

- (a) the number of the certificate of registration; and
- (b) the registration number assigned to the submersible craft; and
- (c) the names of the owner and operator of the submersible craft; and
- (d) where registration is conditional upon the appointment of a representative person, the name and address of the representative person.

Grounds for refusing registration.

7. The Registrar of Shipping may refuse to register a submersible craft if the Chief Marine Surveyor is satisfied that, having regard —

- (a) to the condition of the submersible craft so far as relevant to its safety or to any risk of pollution; or
- (b) to the safety, health and welfare of persons employed or engaged in any capacity on board the submersible craft;

it would be inappropriate for the submersible craft to be registered.

respect of which a contravention of any such regulations has or is suspected to have occurred and, in relation to such submersible craft or supporting apparatus, for applying sections 74 to 76 of the Merchant Shipping Law subject to such modifications as may be prescribed in the regulations.

## PART VI - INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

Inquiries and investigations.

17. (1) Where a casualty has occurred in respect of a submersible craft or supporting apparatus to which this Law applies, the Governor —

- (a) may cause a preliminary inquiry into the casualty to be held by a person appointed for the purpose by him and any person so appointed shall have the powers conferred on an inspector by section 72 of the Merchant Shipping Law; and
- (b) may (whether or not a preliminary inquiry into the casualty has been held) cause a formal investigation into the casualty to be held by a wreck commissioner.

(2) Where the Governor causes a formal investigation into a casualty to be held, sections 56 to 58 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1970, and all rules made thereunder shall apply to such formal investigation as if reference in section 56(1) to "section 55 of this Act" were a reference to "section 17(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft) Law, 1991", except that in the application of sections 56 and 58 —

- (a) the words "and if any question as to the cancellation or suspension of an officer's certificate is likely to arise, the assistance of not less than two assessors" shall be omitted from section 56(1); and
- (b) the words "for the conduct of inquiries under sections 52 and 54 of this Act and" shall be omitted from section 58(1).

(3) The Governor may cause any report made following an inquiry or investigation into a casualty to be made public at such time and in such manner as he thinks fit.

## PART VII - OFFENCES

Offences, general.

18. (1) Any person who causes or permits a submersible craft to be launched, recovered, operated or supported or is otherwise concerned in the launch, recovery, operation or support of a submersible craft in contravention of section 4(2) shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars.

(2) Any person who causes or permits supporting apparatus to

Suspension and revocation of safety certificates.

(3) Safety certificates may be extended by the Chief Marine Surveyor without a declaration of survey for such further period, not exceeding four months, as he thinks fit.

14. The Chief Marine Surveyor may at any time suspend or revoke a safety certificate if he is satisfied that –

- (a) the submersible craft or its supporting apparatus have not been surveyed in accordance with the provisions of regulations made under section 12; or
- (b) the submersible craft or its supporting apparatus no longer complies with the criteria laid down in regulations made under section 12; or
- (c) the submersible craft or its supporting apparatus is in a condition unfit for operation; or
- (d) information supplied for the purposes of any survey of the submersible craft or its supporting apparatus was materially incorrect; or
- (e) the submersible craft or its supporting apparatus has been significantly changed from the particulars supplied at the time of any survey.

Reporting of modifications or damage.

15. While a safety certificate is in force the owner shall report to the Chief Marine Surveyor any modifications or any instance of damage which affects or may affect the safety of the submersible craft or its supporting apparatus.

**PART V - REGULATIONS FOR OPERATION OF SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT**

Regulations concerning the operation of submersible craft.

16. The Governor may make regulations –

- (a) prescribing obligations which any person concerned in the operation of submersible craft and supporting apparatus to which this Law applies must fulfil; and
- (b) prescribing the qualifications necessary to be held by any person concerned in the operation of a submersible craft and supporting apparatus to which this Law applies; and
- (c) imposing penalties on summary conviction in respect of a contravention of any provisions of any such regulations not exceeding, in respect of any one contravention, ten thousand dollars; and
- (d) for detaining any submersible craft or supporting apparatus in

Notification of certain changes affecting submersible craft.

Amendment of particulars of registration.

Termination of registration.

8. Any person who is registered as the owner of a submersible craft to which this Law applies shall forthwith inform the Registrar of Shipping in writing of –

- (a) any change in the particulars contained in the certificate of registration of the submersible craft; or
- (b) any change in the identity, or in the address, of the representative person appointed in respect of the submersible craft; or
- (c) the destruction of the submersible craft or his intention to withdraw the submersible craft from use.

9. (1) The Registrar of Shipping may, whenever it appears to him necessary or appropriate to do so for giving effect to this Part or for bringing up to date or otherwise correcting the particulars entered on the register of submersible craft, cause the register to be amended.

(2) Where the Registrar of Shipping has been notified by the owner that the submersible craft has been destroyed or that the owner intends to withdraw the submersible craft from use, the power to amend the particulars of registration under subsection (1) shall include a power to terminate the registration of the submersible craft.

10. (1) Subject to subsection (3), where the Governor is satisfied of any of the matters set out in subsection (2) he may direct the Registrar of Shipping to terminate the registration of a submersible craft.

(2) The matters of which the Governor must be satisfied for the purposes of subsection (1) are as follows –

- (a) that there has been a change either –
  - (i) in the ownership of the submersible craft; or
  - (ii) in the identity, or the address, of the representative person appointed in respect of the submersible craft, which has not been notified to the Registrar of Shipping; or
- (b) that it is a condition of the registration of the submersible craft that a representative person be appointed and no person is then appointed to act in such capacity; or
- (c) that having regard –
  - (i) to the condition of the submersible craft so far as relevant to its safety or to any risk of pollution; or
  - (ii) to the safety, health and welfare of persons employed or engaged in any capacity on board the submersible

craft, it is inappropriate for the submersible craft to continue to be registered; or

- (d) that any penalty imposed on the owner of the submersible craft in respect of a contravention of this Law, or any regulations made under it, has remained unpaid for a period of more than three months and no appeal against the penalty is pending; or
- (e) that any summons for any such contravention has been duly served on the owner of the submersible craft and the owner has failed to appear at the time and place appointed for the trial of the information or complaint in question and a period of not less than three months has elapsed since that time; or
- (f) that the submersible craft is being operated without the registration number assigned to it by the Registrar of Shipping pursuant to section 6(8) being displayed and marked in accordance with the provisions of section 11.

(3) Before exercising the power conferred by subsection (1) to direct the Registrar of Shipping to terminate the registration of a submersible craft, the Governor shall –

- (a) serve on the owner of the submersible craft or on the person for the time being appointed as representative person in relation to the submersible craft, a notice stating –
  - (i) that he is satisfied as mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of subsection (2); and
  - (ii) that he intends, after the end of the period of 30 days beginning with the date of service of the notice, to direct that the registration of the submersible craft in question be terminated unless he is satisfied that it would be inappropriate to do so by any representations made to him by or on behalf of the owner within that period; and
- (b) have regard to any representations made to him by the owner of the submersible craft within the period of 30 days specified in sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (a).

(4) Where the registration of any submersible craft has been terminated by virtue of this section, the Governor may subsequently, if he is satisfied that it would be appropriate to do so, direct the Registrar of Shipping to restore the registration of the submersible craft.

11. At any time when a submersible craft to which this Part of this Law applies is being operated the registration number assigned to it under section 6(8) shall be –

Display of registration number.

Regulations for construction, equipment etc., of submersible craft.

Issue, duration and extension of safety certificates.

Schedule 2.

- (a) displayed on a metal plate permanently affixed to the internal structure of the main pressure hull of the submersible craft; and
- (b) conspicuously marked on the external structure of the submersible craft.

**PART IV - REGULATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT**

12. The Governor may make regulations –

- (a) specifying construction requirements for submersible craft and supporting apparatus to which this Law applies; and
- (b) specifying requirements for the carriage of equipment and stores by submersible craft and supporting apparatus to which this Law applies; and
- (c) requiring submersible craft and supporting apparatus to which this Law applies to be surveyed and providing for the making of declarations of survey; and
- (d) specifying the criteria which are to be satisfied prior to the issue of a certificate under section 13; and
- (e) imposing penalties on summary conviction in respect of a contravention of any provisions of any such regulations not exceeding, in respect of any one contravention, ten thousand dollars; and
- (f) for detaining any submersible craft or supporting apparatus in respect of which a contravention of any such regulations has or is suspected to have occurred and;
- (g) in relation to such submersible craft or supporting apparatus, for applying sections 74 to 76 of the Merchant Shipping Law subject to such modifications as may be prescribed.

13. (1) If the Chief Marine Surveyor is satisfied, on receipt of a declaration of survey in respect of a submersible craft and its supporting apparatus that they comply with regulations made under section 12, he may issue to the owner safety certificates in respect of the submersible craft and its supporting apparatus in the forms set out in Schedule 2.

(2) Safety certificates issued under this section shall remain in force for two years or for such shorter period as may be specified in the certificates or until suspended or revoked by the Chief Marine Surveyor, subject, in the case of a two-year certificate, to an annual inspection at not less than nine nor more than fifteen months after the survey for the issue of the certificate.