



# Antigua and Barbuda

## Maritime Administration

Miscellaneous Circular  
No. 2024-001  
12 January 2024

**SUBJECT:** Carriage of more than one Load Line Certificate

**REFERENCE:**

- a) *Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act (MSA) 2006 and related Regulations (Statutory Instruments, Directives and Circulars, as applicable)*
- b) *Agreement covering delegation of Statutory Services*
- c) *International Load Line Convention 1966 (LLC)*
- d) *[Information Notice 2018-005](#) Dual Load Lines Policy/Change of Load Lines/Attendance of Class Surveyor*

**TO:** Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organizations

### 1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides guidance for Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships on how to practically handle more than one Load Line Certificate

### 2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships.

### 3. BACKGROUND

A load line is a special marking positioned amidships which depicts the draft of the vessel and the maximum permitted limit in distinct types of waters to which the ship can be loaded.

Nothing shall prevent a flag Administration from assigning a greater freeboard than the minimum freeboard determined in accordance with Annex I of Annex B of the 1988 Protocol to the International Load Line Convention.

### 4. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The general conditions for the issuance and carriage of additional International Load Line Certificates onboard Antigua and Barbuda ships are as follows:
  1. The ship must fully comply with all the relevant safety requirements in force for a ship of maximum draught/deadweight, for which minimum freeboard could be assigned.
  2. Each set of Load Line marks corresponding to the certificates shall be permanently marked on the ship's sides and be verified by a surveyor from a Recognised Organisation (RO).

3. Only the set of Load Line marks corresponding to the least freeboard assigned shall normally show the full grid markings. The additional increased freeboard shall be marked as all seasonal, and only the Load Line mark and the Fresh Water Load Line need be marked. However, in individual cases and at the discretion of the owner, a full grid of density and seasonal Load Lines may be marked.
4. Only one set of Load Line marks shall be visible at any one time and the remaining Load Line marks shall be effectively obliterated with paint.
5. The Master may alter the Load Line marks for the vessel in accordance with the applicable Load Line Certificate and item .4 above. The new marks shall be verified by the Master who, when satisfied with the alterations and the condition of the vessel, makes an official entry in the ship's deck logbook stating the certificate in use. The Master must ensure that the correct Load Line mark and associated certificate are on display, and that all other certificates are placed in a sealed envelope on board. If electronic certificates are issued by the RO, the Master shall ensure that the correct electronic certificates are on display in the database.
6. The RO should attend the ship at the first convenient port to survey and endorse the change, in accordance with the requirements above.

**Issued by**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping  
(ADOMS) St. John's