



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Maritime Safety Authority**

# ALTERATION CERTIFICATE

*Shipping Registration Act 1981*  
Section 65, Regulation 31

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## DEFINITIONS

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### **Overall length**

Overall length is obtained by measuring (to two decimal places) the distance between a vertical line passing through a point being the foremost part of the stem, and a vertical line passing through a point being the aftermost part of the stern. (Do not give class length). The Registrar should be contacted where the length cannot be measured with this definition.

### **Maximum breadth**

Maximum breadth is the breadth measured (to two decimal places) to the moulded line of the frame if the ship has a metal shell, or to the outer surface of the hull if the ship has a shell of any other material.

### **Moulded depth amidships**

This is the vertical distance measured (to two decimal places) from the top of the keel to the top of the freeboard deck beam at side amidships. (Amidships means the vertical plane situated at the middle of the length of the ship and at right angles to the centre line plane of the ship).

- In the case of a wooden ship or composite ship the top of the keel is the lower edge of the keel rabbet.
- In the case of a ship in which the form at the lower part of the midship section is of a hollow character, or if thick garboards are fitted, the top of the keel is the point where the line of the flat of the bottom continued inwards cuts the side of the keel of the ship.
- In the case of a ship having rounded gunwales the top of the freeboard deck beam at side is the point of intersection of the moulded lines of the deck and of the side, the moulded lines being treated as extending as though the gunwale were of angular design.
- In the case of a ship having stepped freeboard deck, the raised part of which extends over amidships, the top of the freeboard deck beam at side is the point of intersection of amidships and of a line of reference extending from the top of the freeboard deck beam at side at the lower part of the deck along a line parallel to the raised part.

### **Tonnage length**

The tonnage length of a ship is either

- (a) a length equal to 96 per cent of the total length of the ship measured on a waterline that is at a distance, from the top of the keel, equal to 85 per cent of the least moulded depth of the ship; or
- (b) if the length of the ship measured from the foreside of the stem to the axis of the ruder stock on that waterline is greater than the length ascertained in accordance with paragraph (a) - that greater length.

