



**DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MERCHANT SHIPPING SECRETARIAT
MINISTRY OF PORTS AND SHIPPING**

1st Floor, Bristol Building, 43-89, York Street, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

Telephone: +94(0)112435127, Fax: +94(0)112435160, E-mail: dmsmos@sltnet.lk

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Notice to All Ship-Owners, Operators, Training Institutes, Masters of Sri Lankan Flagged Ships, and Recognized Organizations.

Life-Saving Appliances and Equipment

References:

- (a) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), as amended
- (b) International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code, as amended
- (c) Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, Resolution MSC.81(70), as amended
- (d) European Union Council Directive 96/98/EC on Marine Equipment Directive (MED)
- (e) Recommendations on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Life Rafts, Resolution A.761(18)
- (f) Adoption of Amendments to the Recommendation on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Life Rafts (Resolution A.761(18)), Resolution MSC.55(66)
- (g) Guidelines for Periodic Testing of Immersion Suit and Anti-exposure Suit Seams and Closures (MSC/Circ.1114)
- (h) Guidance on wearing immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1278)
- (i) MSC.1/Circ.1243, adopted on 29 October 2007

Applicability

This notice Applies to all Sri Lankan flagged ships.

Requirements

1.0 Approval of Equipment

1.1 The Merchant Shipping Secretariat(MSS) will accept equipment approvals granted by a Recognized Organization (RO) acting on behalf of the Merchant Shipping Secretariat of Sri Lanka or by the United States Coast Guard(USCG) ,Maritime Coast Guard Agency in UK(UKMCA) or Maritime administration of Japan provided, the approvals are fully in accordance with Convention requirements. All newly installed lifesaving equipment must comply with references (a) through (c) above.

1.2 Existing equipment, which was manufactured and tested in accordance with previous SOLAS Convention requirements, may continue to be used as long as it remains in serviceable condition.

1.3 The Administration will also accept equipment that has been approved under the European Union Marine Equipment Directive (MED) procedures – reference (d) above.

2.0 Approval of Service Providers

2.1 The MSS recognizes servicing facilities that are approved by an RO on behalf of the MSS of Sri Lanka or by the United States Coast Guard(USCG) ,Maritime Coast Guard Agency in UK(UKMCA) or Maritime administration of Japan provided, the approvals are in compliance with reference (e) above, as amended by reference (f) above. This has become necessary because certain suppliers have not developed networks of service stations to support their products, something that owners should be taking into consideration in the selection of such closely regulated items such as these.

3.0 Equipment Servicing

3.1 The SOLAS Convention requires that inflatable life rafts, inflatable life jackets, marine evacuation systems, and inflated rescue boats be serviced at approved servicing facilities.

3.2 On vessels that have implemented the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) inspection scheme, the inflatable life rafts, any inflatable life jackets, and any installed evacuation systems must be examined and certification of last servicing verified during the annual, periodical, and renewal surveys as stipulated in the convention. On other vessels, this equipment is to be serviced just prior to, or during, the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate periodical and renewal surveys.

3.3 The RO surveyors must be satisfied that the servicing has been completed satisfactorily prior to endorsing or issuing the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or HSSC Cargo Ship Safety Certificate. Attendance of the surveyor during the servicing of the life raft is not mandatory.

3.4 The MSS recognizes that annual servicing of the large numbers of life rafts required for passenger ships under their unique voyage conditions may impose difficulties. The MSS therefore endorses the servicing of life rafts in smaller more manageable groups throughout the certification year. Each life raft, however, must be serviced in a sequence that ensures that no life raft will exceed a 12-month servicing interval.

3.5 The servicing interval and procedures for inflated rescue boats must be in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements. The facility performing the servicing must comply with the requirements of paragraph 2.1 above.

3.6 The periodic testing of immersion suits shall be conducted according to reference (g) above. Suits less than 10 years old shall be tested at intervals not exceeding three (3) years; suits older than 10 years, or suits which have seams or closures that are in questionable condition may be required to be tested more frequently. Immersion suit air tests may be conducted on board ship if suitable equipment is available. Any necessary repairs should be conducted by an approved service provider in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

4.0 Life Rafts

4.1 Life rafts provided in compliance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 may be stowed in protected positions provided they are readily available at all times. Particular care should be given to their accessibility when deck cargoes are carried. Consideration should also be given to facilitate launching.

4.2 As described in reference (i) above, remotely located survival craft such as the life rafts provided in compliance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 shall be provided with an embarkation ladder or other means of embarkation enabling descent to the water in a controlled manner as per SOLAS Regulation III/11.7. For this purpose, knotted ropes are not considered an acceptable means of embarkation.

5.0 Immersion Suits and Thermal Protective Aids

5.1 Immersion suits shall comply with section 2.3 of reference (b) above.

5.2 An immersion suit shall be provided for every person on board the ship, unless expressly provided otherwise under reference (a) above. Immersion suits and thermal protective aids are to be assigned by the Master. It is recommended that they should be kept in their rooms along with life jackets.

5.3 Additional immersion suits as required under SOLAS III/32.3.3 shall be provided for each person on watch or at any normal work location that is remote from where immersion suits are normally stowed. For the purposes of this paragraph, a normal work location is a location where a crewmember regularly carries out normal work functions. Examples may include but are not limited to: control rooms, machine/workshops, galleys, offices, and remote lookout positions. Such a work location would be considered remote if it is not in the direct vicinity of the primary survival craft and/or normal stowage position of the individually assigned immersion suits, and could not reasonably be retrieved in the event of an emergency. At a minimum, additional suits shall be provided to the navigation bridge and the engine control room for all watch keepers at those locations.

5.4 An immersion suit of appropriate size shall be provided for every person assigned to crew the rescue boat or assigned to the marine evacuation system party in accordance with Regulation 7.3 of Chapter III of reference (a) above. The immersion suits provided under this requirement may be used to comply with paragraph 5.2 above.

5.5 A minimum of two (2) immersion suits and two (2) lifejackets must be provided at locations where remotely located survival craft are stowed in accordance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 and as detailed in reference (i) above.

5.6 Reference (a) contains provisions for exempting vessels, other than bulk carriers, as defined in Regulation IX/1 of reference (a) above, that are constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates from the requirement to carry immersion suits and/or thermal protective aids. The MSS considers voyages in warm climates to be those within the zone between 30° North and 30° South latitudes. The thermal protective aids required by LSA Code Sections 4.1.5.1.24, 4.4.8.31 and 5.1.2.2.13, however, are an integral part of survival craft and rescue boat equipment which must be provided regardless of route of the vessel.

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Director General of Merchant Shipping
Merchant Shipping Secretariat
Ministry of Ports and Shipping
Tel : +94-11-2435127 / +94-11-2430305
Fax : +94-11-2435160
E-mail : dmsmos@slt.net.lk
Web : www.dgshipping.gov.lk