



MPA
SINGAPORE

**MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 11 OF 2019**

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Applicable to: Ship owners, ship managers, operators, masters of Singapore registered ships, recognised organisations, agents and service providers of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear

IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL TESTING, OVERHAUL AND REPAIR OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR

1. This circular provides information on the implementation of the requirements on Singapore registered ships (SRS) as adopted by Resolution MSC.402(96), which will take effect on 1 January 2020 upon entry into force of the associated amendments to Regulations III/3 and III/20 of the SOLAS Convention.
2. Resolution MSC.404(96) had adopted amendments to Regulations III/3 and III/20 of the SOLAS Convention which mandates that the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, are to be carried out in accordance to Resolution MSC.402(96) which provides details on the requirements.
3. The requirements as adopted by Resolution MSC.402(96) applies to the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of:
 - i. lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats; and
 - ii. launching appliances and on-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit-launched liferafts.
4. Resolution MSC.402(96) also requires service providers carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear to be approved by the Administration in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Resolution. This requirement

shall equally apply to manufacturers when they are acting as authorised service providers.

5. In accordance to paragraph 7.4.3 of Resolution MSC.402(96), the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has authorised our Recognised Organisations (ROs) to approve the service providers on its behalf and will accept the service providers approved by our ROs. Further details on the implementation is appended in the annex to this circular.

6. Ship owners, managers, operators and masters of SRS are reminded to ensure that maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear carried out onboard its ships on or after 1 January 2020 are in accordance with the requirements.

7. Queries relating to this circular should be directed to Mr. Calvin Lee at (+65) 6375-6269 or email shipping@mpa.gov.sg.

GOH CHUNG HUN
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

DETAILS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION MSC.402(96) AND MSC.404(96) FOR SINGAPORE REGISTERED SHIPS

1. Will MPA carry out the approval of service providers carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear service providers (“service providers”) located in Singapore and overseas?

MPA has authorised eight (8) Recognised Organisations¹ (ROs) to carry out the approval of service providers located in Singapore and overseas on its behalf. MPA will not carry out any direct approval of service providers. Service providers seeking approval should contact any of our ROs.

2. Will all service providers carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear need to be approved by MPA?

All service providers that carry out the services onboard SRS on or after 1 January 2020 will need to be approved by our ROs. With reference to paragraph 7.1.1 of Resolution MSC.402(96), MPA has informed our ROs that the authorisation of service providers shall include demonstration of employment and documentation of personnel certified in accordance with the manufacturer's established certification programme. Personnel certified with a standard other than the manufacturer's established certification programme will not be accepted.

The only exception applies to the original equipment manufacturer when carrying out the services on its own equipment. In such cases, the original equipment manufacturer need not be approved by our ROs.

3. Where can I find information regarding the availability of authorised service provider in Singapore and overseas?

All our ROs are requested to promulgate the information of approved service provider on their respective websites and made available to the shipping community.

4. Is it mandatory for the service provider to be certified to ISO quality system in view that paragraph 7.1.5 of Resolution MSC.402(96) specifically mentioned the availability of a “documented and certified quality system”?

¹ The eight (8) Recognised Organisations (ROs) are ABS, BV, CCS, DNVGL, KR, LR, NK and RINA.

MPA has communicated to our ROs that it is not mandatory to be ISO certified and the use of any documented and certified quality system that satisfy paragraph 7.1.5.1 to 7.1.5.8 of Resolution MSC.402(96) is acceptable.

5. Does MPA consider the service providers approved by ROs before the implementation of Resolution MSC.402(96) as valid?

Existing service providers approved by our ROs are allowed to continue to provide services to SRS on or after 1 January 2020, subject to the RO's confirmation that the service providers meet the requirements of MPA.

6. Who can be engaged to carry out the services if the manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support?

In accordance with paragraph 7.3 of Resolution MSC.402(96), in cases where a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, ROs may authorise service providers for the equipment on the basis of prior authorisation for the equipment and/or long-term experience and demonstrated expertise as an authorised service provider.

7. Can a non-approved service provider be engaged to carry out the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair carried out onboard Singapore ships after 1 January 2020 in the event approved service providers are not available in the port of call?

The services should normally be carried out by approved service providers. If there is no approved service provider at the port and there is an urgent need to carry out the services onboard SRS, the RO which issued the vessel's Cargo Ship Safety Equipment certificate should be contacted to evaluate the suitability and acceptance of the proposed service provider. Upon satisfactory assessment that the service provider is competent to perform the services, the RO may accept the services, subject to the attending surveyor witnessing the services carried out onboard.