



# Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit BG Verkehr

ISM-Circular No.: 03/2012

**Subject:** Maintenance according to ISM-Code 10.1

**Rule reference:** ISM-Code 1.2.3 + 10.1, SOLAS Reg. II-2/14, SOLAS Reg. III/20

**Remark:** This circular has to be carried on board of ships

**Date:** 12.09.2012

## 1. Maintenance of ship and equipment

*The Company should establish procedures to ensure that the ship is maintained in conformity with the provisions of the relevant rules and regulations and with any additional requirements which may be established by the Company. (ISM-Code 10.1)*

The safety management system of the company has to provide a maintenance plan which ensures maintenance and inspection of the ship and equipment according to the relevant rules and regulations, codes, guidelines and standards.

## 2. Operational readiness and maintenance of fire protection and fire fighting systems and appliances

In compliance with SOLAS Reg. II-2/14.2.2 the guidelines regarding maintenance, testing and inspection of fire protection and fire fighting systems developed by the IMO have to be considered.

Previously, the IMO-guideline MSC.1/Circ.850 GUIDELINE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES has been applicable. From **01.06.2013** this guideline will be replaced by the new circular **MSC.1/Circ.1432 REVISED GUIDELINE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES** which contains major changes to the minimum contents of the plan for periodical maintenance, inspection and testing of systems, equipment and appliances.

Therefore, the existing maintenance plan must be reviewed with regard to the minimum contents according to paragraphs 4 to 10 of the circular and must be amended accordingly.

In case a system or appliance is inoperative because of maintenance or other works, the maintenance plan shall include alternative suitable provisions to ensure fire safety.

The maintenance plan must also indicate who may perform testing and maintenance work.

Appropriate records about the works carried out shall be available on board. If these works are performed by a service technician inspection reports should be provided on board.

Furthermore, it is pointed out that the required instructions and spare components for maintenance of fire alarm and protection systems must be available on board according to the FSS-Code as amended at the time of the keel-laying date of the ship.

For maintenance and testing of portable fire-extinguishers and fixed CO<sub>2</sub> fire-extinguishing systems the IMO has published the following guidelines which have to be observed:

- Resolution A.951(23) IMPROVED GUIDELINES FOR MARINE PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
- MSC.1/Circ.1318 GUIDELINES FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF FIXED CARBON DIOXIDE FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEM

It shall be noted that portable fire-extinguishers are systems requiring inspections according to the Betriebssicherheitsverordnung. Accordingly the requirements of periodical inspections by a competent person have to be complied with.

### **3. Maintenance, testing and inspection of life saving appliances**

Before the ship leaves port, all life-saving appliances shall be in working order and ready for immediate use. SOLAS regulation III/20 is the relevant regulation which defines content and interval of maintenance, testing and inspection.

The maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear shall be carried out as specified in Annex 1 of MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS, which also applies to liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats and their launching appliances.

In compliance with the ISM-Code the guidelines developed by the IMO shall be implemented in the safety management system of the company.

It shall be pointed out, especially, that

- all works shall be performed in compliance with the occupational safety and health instructions,
- the weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance shall be conducted in conformance with the manufacturer's instructions and under supervision of a senior ship's officer,
- all other inspection, servicing and repair shall be conducted by the manufacturer or another person that has been trained by the manufacturer appropriately, (If the manufacturer is unable to provide this service, the BG-Verkehr may authorize other organizations to perform the work for the manufacturer),
- instructions for on board maintenance of life saving appliances have to be available on board (SOLAS regulation III/36),
- all works have to be recorded and signed by the person who carries out the work and countersigned by the master of the ship or a responsible person of the company,
- the service provider who performed the maintenance, inspection and repair works has to issue a statement that the life saving appliances remain fit for purpose.

### **Falls**

Falls shall be inspected periodically and renewed when necessary due to deterioration. Otherwise they have to be renewed after no more than five years.

### **Means of embarkation and disembarkation**

Appliances like gangways and accommodation ladders have to be inspected and maintained monthly as required by the corresponding regulation SOLAS regulation III/20.7.2. Further checks have always to be carried out when these appliances are in use. In terms of maintenance please refer to MSC.1/Circ.1331.

All wires shall be renewed when necessary due to deterioration and latest after five years as it is required for falls used for life saving appliances (SOLAS Reg. II-1/3-9 / see ISM-Circular 02-2010).

## **Immersion suits**

Inspection and maintenance of immersion suits shall be carried out monthly as required by SOLAS regulation III/20.7. The guidelines as set out in the annex of MSC.1/Circ.1047 have to be taken into account in relation to monthly shipboard inspection of immersion suits. To ensure an adequate strength and water tightness of seams and closures of immersion suits it is recommended to consider relevant instructions of the manufacturer and the guidelines of MSC.1/Circ.1114 (Guidelines for periodic testing of immersion suits and anti-exposure suit seams and closures). The maintenance and inspection of immersion suits shall be properly recorded.

## **4. Note**

This circular supersedes the following ISM-circulars 02/2006, 04/2006, 02/2007 and part 4, 5 and 6 of ISM-circular 02/2008.

### **Action required:**

Companies are requested to implement this circular. The ship's personnel shall be informed accordingly.

Copies of the ISM Circular can be found at our website:

<http://www.bg-verkehr.de/service/downloads/ship-safety-division/ism/overview-ism-circulars-and-ism-info-mails>

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