

# Isle of Man Ship Registry Manx Shipping Notice



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| SOLAS Chapter III<br>Life-saving appliances and arrangements | Ref. MSN 062<br>Issued 20 Feb 2020 |
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## Introduction

This MSN has been re-issued in February 2020 in order to take into account IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) on the new requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear. Section 2 of this MSN has been amended accordingly. Section 3 of this MSN has been updated to remove some obsolete requirements and to include additional clarifications for remotely located liferafts and servicing of lifeboat air bottles.

SOLAS Chapter III contains the requirements for life-saving appliances and arrangements. This includes requirements for lifeboats, rescue boats and lifejackets according to the type of ship the equipment is fitted on. Specific technical requirements for life-saving appliances are contained in the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code which is mandatory in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III.



## Section 1

### Isle of Man Regulations implementing SOLAS Chapter III

**The Isle of Man's** LSA Regulations (Statutory Document No.2017/0185) entered into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 and apply to a Manx ship which engages on international voyages wherever it may be except for:

- a) high-speed craft;
- b) commercial yachts which comply with the Large Commercial Yacht Code (LY1, LY2 LY3 or REG yacht Code);
- c) cargo ships of less than 500gt (refer to Section 1.6 of this MSN);
- d) MODUs;
- e) pleasure vessels;
- f) fishing vessels;
- g) ships of war or troopships;
- h) ships not propelled by mechanical means; and
- i) wooden ships of primitive build.

A summary of the main provisions of the new Regulations is as follows:

#### 1. Requirement to comply with SOLAS Chapter III

A Manx ship must comply with the requirements of SOLAS Chapter III as apply in relation to a ship of its description.

- a. A ship constructed on or before 30 June 1986 must comply with:
  - Chapter III of SOLAS including all amendments made to that Chapter up to and including those adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.1(XLV) on 20 November 1981 which came in to force on 1 September 1984; and
  - the Regulations of the latest version of SOLAS Chapter III as prescribed in 1.e below.
- b. A ship constructed on or after 1 July 1986 up to and including 30 June 1998 must comply with:
  - Chapter III of SOLAS including all amendments made to that Chapter up to and including those adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.27(61) on 11 December 1992 which came into force on 1 October 1994; and
  - the regulations of the latest version of SOLAS Chapter III as prescribed in 1.e below.
- c. A ship constructed on or after 1 July 1998 must comply with:
  - Chapter III of SOLAS including all amendments made to that Chapter up to and including those adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.350(92) on 21 June 2013, which entered into force on 01 January 2015.
- d. Ships constructed on or before 30 June 1998 must also:  
Ensure that when LSA or arrangements on such ships are replaced or such ships undergo repairs, alterations or modifications of a major character which involve replacement of or any addition to, their existing LSA or arrangements, such LSA or



arrangements, in so far as is reasonable and practicable, comply with the latest requirements of SOLAS III. However, if a survival craft other than an inflatable liferaft is replaced without replacing its launching appliance, or vice versa, the survival craft or launching appliance may be of the same type as that replaced.

e. All ships must also: comply with the following Regulations from the latest version of SOLAS Chapter III as stated in Section 1.c (above) where relevant to a ship of its description:

- Regulation 1.5 Application (lifeboat on-load release mechanism);
- Regulation 6.2 Radio life-saving appliances;
- Regulation 7 Personal life-saving appliances – regarding infant and adult lifejackets;
- Regulation 8 Muster list and emergency instructions;
- Regulation 9 Operating instructions;
- Regulation 17-1 Recovery of persons from water;
- Regulation 19 Emergency training and drills;
- Regulation 20 Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections;
- Regulation 26 Additional requirements for ro-ro passenger ships – regarding fast rescue boats;
- Regulation 28 Helicopter landing and pick-up areas;
- Regulation 30 Drills;
- Regulation 31.2 Survival craft and rescue boats;
- Regulation 32.2 Life jacket lights;
- Regulation 32.3 Immersion suits; and
- Regulation 35 Training manual and on board training aids.

## 2. International Life-Saving Appliance Code

All life-saving appliances and arrangements must comply with the **International Life-Saving Appliance Code or "LSA Code"**.

The LSA Code was adopted on 4 June 1996 by IMO Resolution MSC.48(66) and came into force on 1 July 1998. The Isle of Man LSA Regulations require ships to comply with the LSA Code including all amendments to that Code up to and including those adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.368(93).

## 3. Approvals, type approvals, equivalent arrangements, exemptions and waivers

There are various circumstances in SOLAS Chapter III where approval or type approval is required and certain situations where equivalent arrangements, exemptions and waivers may be granted.



a. Approvals

Where SOLAS Chapter III, or any part of the LSA Code, requires anything to be approved by the Administration, it must be approved by the Ship Registry or a Recognised Organisation.

b. Testing

Before life-saving appliances are approved they must be tested, to confirm that they comply with the requirements of SOLAS III and the LSA Code. The testing **must be carried out in accordance with the IMO Resolution on 'Recommendations on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances'**. Please be aware there are different versions of this Resolution depending on when the Life-saving appliance was installed on board the ship. The latest version is stated below, for previous versions please refer to the Isle of Man LSA Regulations:

- For LSA which has been installed onboard on or after 01 July 2010 must meet the applicable requirements of the Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.81(70) on 11 December 1998, including all amendments made to that Recommendation up to and including those adopted by IMO Resolution MSC. 378(93).

c. Type approvals

All equipment requiring type approval must be accompanied by a type approval certificate issued by -

- a Recognised Organisation listed in [MSN 20](#); or
- a Recognised Organisation on behalf of a national Administration; or
- the Isle of Man Ship Registry.

If the equipment has been issued with a type approval certificate by another organisation it may only be used or fitted with the consent of the Ship Registry.

Equipment which has been certified under the Marine Equipment Directive (MED) is acceptable to be used on Isle of Man registered vessels, although it is not a mandatory requirement that equipment has been certified under the MED.

Except when it is a Convention requirement, individual test certificates are not required in addition to the type approval certificate.

d. Equivalent arrangements, exemptions and waivers

The Ship Registry may permit equivalent arrangements, exemptions and waivers on a case-by-case basis and they will only be valid if they are in writing and if any conditions stated are complied with. Further information on exemptions, equivalent arrangements and waivers are stated in the Isle of Man LSA Regulations.

#### 4. **Company's responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the Company to ensure a ship complies with the requirements of the Isle of Man LSA Regulations.



A 'Company' means "the owner of a ship to which the Regulations apply or any other organisation or person such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed responsibility for operation of the ship from the owner and who, on assuming such responsibility, has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibilities imposed on the **Company by the SOLAS Convention**".

#### 5. Foreign ships

The Isle of Man LSA Regulations also apply to all foreign ships which engage on international voyages whilst they are within the territorial waters of the Island except for the ship types to which the Regulations do not apply (stated in Section 1).

A foreign ship in the territorial waters of the Island, must comply with such of the requirements of SOLAS Chapter III as apply in relation to a ship of its description.

A foreign ship in a port of the Island may be subject to inspection.

If an inspector carries out an inspection on a foreign ship in a port of the Island, and certificates required by regulation 12 or 13 of SOLAS Chapter I are not produced, have expired or ceased to be valid, the ship may be detained.

A foreign ship may also be detained if the inspector has clear grounds for believing that the condition of the ship or its equipment does not correspond substantially with the particulars of the certificate or the ship and its equipment are not in compliance with the provisions of SOLAS Chapter I Regulation 11(a) and (b).

#### 6. Ships under 500GT

The following Isle of Man Regulations apply to ships under 500GT:

- Merchant Shipping (Life-saving appliances) (Ships built before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1986) Regulations 1991.  
These Regulations apply to Manx cargo ships under 500gt built before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1986 (including foreign cargo ships under 500gt whilst they are within Manx territorial waters).
- Merchant shipping (life-saving appliances) Regulations 1999 – These Regulations apply to cargo ships under 500gt (including foreign cargo ships under 500gt whilst they are within Manx territorial waters).



## Section 2

### Periodic servicing of LSA

#### 1. New requirements for servicing of launching appliances and release gear

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 two new IMO Resolutions entered into force:

- MSC.404(96) - This amends SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 3 and Regulation 20 with new requirements for the period servicing of launching appliances and release gear; and
- MSC.402(96) - This contains new requirements for the authorisation of service providers who carry out the periodic servicing of life saving appliances in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20.

#### 2. Application

These new Resolutions apply to the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of:

- a. lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats; and
- b. 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.

#### 3. IMO Resolution MSC.402(96)

IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) provides a significant change to the previous requirements contained in MSC.1/Circ.1206 and MSC.1/Circ.1277, which have now been superseded.

The requirements are summarised as follows:

- All personnel carrying out the work stated in paragraph 2 (above), shall be certified by the manufacturer or an Authorized Service Provider (ASP) for each make and type of equipment to be worked on.
- The requirements for the authorization of ASPs is defined in MSC.402(96) and this includes initial and periodical audits of the ASPs. The authorisation of ASPs has been delegated by the Isle of Man to the Recognised Organisations listed in [MSN 020](#).
- The specific procedures for the inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair is stated in MSC.402(96) and has been summarised in Table 1 (below).
- MSC.402(96) defines the work which can be carried out by ASPs, ship operators and manufacturers. The authorisation requirements has been summarised in the flow chart in Appendix 1.

#### 4. **Company's responsibility**

These new Resolutions place a requirement on the Company to:

- a. ensure all thorough examinations, operational tests, overhaul and repair of the LSA equipment defined in paragraph 2 (above), are carried out in accordance with MSC.402(96) and SOLAS regulation III/20. In effect this means the company must ensure this work is carried out by personnel certified as an ASP;
- b. establish and implement health, safety and environment procedures covering all activities set out in MSC.402(96);



- c. ensure that a full set of maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation shall be available on board and kept up to date. MSC.1/Circ.1205/Rev.1 provides revised guidelines for developing operational and maintenance manuals for lifeboat systems. This has been published to encourage the development of user-friendly manuals for operation and maintenance of lifeboat systems including launching appliances.

5. Lifeboat drills

Lifeboat drills should be carried out taking into account the guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1578). This also includes guidelines for simulated launching of free-fall lifeboats.

6. Procedures for the inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair

| TABLE 1  |   |   |
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| Type of procedure and interval to be carried out |   | Personnel carrying out the work   |
| Weekly and monthly                               | Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s)  | Certified personnel of an ASP, or by shipboard personnel under the direction <b>of a senior ship's officer in accordance</b> with the maintenance manual(s) |
| Annual   | The annual through examinations and operational tests required by SOLAS III.20.11 and MSC.402(96) Section 6.2   | Certified personnel of an ASP, or ship operator (if authorised in accordance with Sections 3 & 7 of MSC.402(96))  |
| 5 yearly   | The thorough examinations, overhauls and operational tests, carried out at intervals of at least once every five years as required by SOLAS III.20.11 and MSC.402(96) Section 6.3 | Certified personnel of an ASP; and carried out in the presence of a Class surveyor (this is required by MSC.1/Circ.1618).                                   |

Notes:

- i. The annual examination/testing must be conducted within the survey window of the relevant Cargo Ship Safety Equipment or Passenger Ship Safety Certificate (as applicable); it is not necessary to conduct this at 12 month intervals. This flexibility does not apply to the five yearly testing which must be carried out prior to the 5 year expiry date.
- ii. All reports and checklists shall be completed and signed by the person who carries out **the inspection and maintenance work and signed by the Company's representative or ship's master.**



## Section 3

### Interpretation of SOLAS Chapter III requirements

**SOLAS Chapter III requires the ship's Flag Administration to determine how a ship must implement certain requirements.** Where SOLAS Chapter III requires a decision to be made by the Ship Registry, and an interpretation has been made or permission has been given, this is stated in the table below.

\*References to SOLAS III page numbers in the Annexes are from SOLAS consolidated edition 2014. The Regulations have only been summarised and the SOLAS text should be referred to for the full regulation.

| SOLAS consolidated edition 2014 Regulation* | Summary of the SOLAS Chapter III Regulations  | <b>IOM Ship Registry's requirements</b>  |
|---|---|--|
| REG 1.5<br>Page 231                         | <p><u>Lifeboat on-load release mechanisms</u></p> <p>Not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, but not later than 1 July 2019, lifeboat on-load release mechanisms not complying with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the Code shall be replaced with equipment that complies with the Code. Refer to MSC.1/Circ.1392.</p>   | <p>All lifeboat on-load release mechanisms installed on IoM registered ships must be in compliance with the LSA Code taking into account MSC.1/Circ.1392. Please note the dates stated in SOLAS Reg 1.5 has now passed, all existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems should now be in compliance with MSC.1/Circ.1392.</p> <p><b>It is the Ship Registry's interpretation of the LSA Code that this is also applicable to rescue boats and as such if a hook on a rescue boat is of a similar type to that on a lifeboat, the same procedures should be followed as for lifeboats, including replacement.</b></p> |
| REG 6.5.2<br>Page 236                       | <p><u>Public address system</u></p> <p>The public address system shall be clearly audible above the ambient noise in all spaces, prescribed by paragraph 7.2.2.1 of the Code, and shall be provided with an override function controlled from one location on the navigation bridge and such other places on board as the Administration deems necessary, so that all emergency messages will be broadcast if any loudspeaker in the spaces concerned has been switched off, its volume has been turned down or the public address system is used for other purposes.</p> | <p>The Public Address system must meet the unified interpretation in MSC.1/Circ.1530.</p>  |





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| <p>REG 6.5.3.2<br/>Page 236</p> | <p><u>Public address system</u><br/>The public address system and its performance standards shall be approved by the Administration having regard to the recommendations adopted by the Organization.</p>   | <p>The approvals will be delegated to Recognised Organisations, who will carry out approval in accordance with MSC/Circ.808.</p>  |
| <p>REG 7.2.1.5<br/>Page 237</p> | <p><u>Adult lifejackets</u><br/>If the adult lifejackets provided are not designed to fit persons weighing up to 140 kg and with a chest girth of up to 1,750 mm, a sufficient number of suitable accessories shall be available on board to allow them to be secured to such persons.</p>  | <p><b>'Sufficient' is defined as meaning that all</b> persons on board should have a lifejacket that fits their weight and size.</p>  |
| <p>REG 7.2.2<br/>Page 237</p>   | <p><u>Lifejackets</u><br/>Lifejackets shall be so placed as to be readily accessible and their position shall be plainly indicated. Where, due to the particular arrangements of the ship, the lifejackets provided in compliance with the requirements of paragraph 2.1 may become inaccessible, alternative provisions shall be made to the satisfaction of the Administration which may include an increase in the number of lifejackets to be carried.</p>  | <p>This would be determined by the Ship Registry on a case-by-case basis.</p>   |
| <p>REG 7.3<br/>Page 238</p>     | <p><u>Immersion suits (rescue boats and MES)</u><br/>An immersion suit, complying with the requirements of section 2.3 of the Code or an anti-exposure suit complying with section 2.4 of the Code, of an appropriate size, shall be provided for every person assigned to crew the rescue boat or assigned to the marine evacuation system party. If the ship is constantly engaged in warm climates* where, in the opinion of the Administration thermal protection is unnecessary, this protective clothing need not be carried.</p> | <p>The Ship Registry defines warm climates as being between 30 degrees North/South. Where ships are operating exclusively in this zone, the Ship Registry will consider waiving the requirement in Reg 7.3.</p> <p>Where immersion suits are not carried we recommend ships carry anti-exposure suits or thermal protective life jackets, taking into account the information in MSC/Circ.1046.</p> |



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| <p>REG 22.4<br/>Page 251</p> <p>REG 32.3.2<br/>Page 257</p> | <p><u>Immersion suits on passenger ships</u><br/>If the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates where, in the opinion of the Administration, they are unnecessary.</p> <p><u>Immersion suits</u><br/>An immersion suit of an appropriate size, complying with the requirements of section 2.3 of the Code shall be provided for every person on board the ship. However, for ships other than bulk carriers, as defined in regulation IX/1, these immersion suits need not be required if the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates* where, in the opinion of the Administration, immersion suits are unnecessary.</p> |   |
| <p>REG 31.1.4</p>   | <p><u>Arrangements for remotely located survival craft</u></p>   | <p>Refer to the UI stated in MSC.1/Circ.1490/Rev.1. This UI states the requirements for the number of lifejackets, adequate means of illumination and means of embarkation.</p> <p><b>An embarkation ladder complying with the requirements of paragraph 6.1.6 of the LSA Code is not mandatory for remotely located survival craft. An acceptable alternative could be a Jacob's ladder with efficient non-slip surface, which can be secured in a safe and efficient manner and is properly maintained. The use of knotted rope is not acceptable</b></p> |
| <p>REG 32.3.3<br/>Page 258</p>                              | <p><u>Immersion suits</u><br/>If a ship has any watch or work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed, including remotely located survival craft carried in accordance with regulation 31.1.4, additional immersion suits of an appropriate size shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally on watch or working at those locations at any time.</p>  | <p>Additional immersion suits (minimum 2) are required for people working at remote control stations such as the bridge and engine room.</p> <p>Liferafts, if located at the aft/forward end of the ship and at a distance of more than 100m from the closest survival craft should be <b>regarded as "remotely located survival craft"</b> and at least a further 2 additional immersion suits should be provided at this location.</p>  |



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| <p>REG 20.7<br/>Page 247</p> | <p><u>Monthly inspections (immersion suits)</u></p>  | <p>a. Immersion suits and anti-exposure suits must be inspected in accordance with MSC/Circ.1047 and MSC/Circ.1114.</p> <p>b. Immersion suits are now being produced in airtight packaging to reduce degradation. Such immersion suits need not be inspected in accordance with the full requirements of MSC/Circ.1047 but should still be inspected monthly in as much detail as reasonably possible, and in <b>accordance with the manufacturer's</b> instructions, without compromising the air tightness of the packaging. In order to be able to meet this requirement, the airtight packing must be transparent.</p> <p>c. It is recommended that airtight packaged suits are subjected to a pressure test (in accordance with MSC/Circ.1114) at intervals not exceeding three years, by an authorised service provider. Immersion suits that are over 10 years old should be serviced annually by an authorised service provider.</p> <p>d. A sufficient number of suits must be kept without airtight packaging for use in drills.</p> |
| <p>REG 8.2<br/>Page 238</p>  | <p><u>Muster list and emergency instructions</u><br/>Clear instructions to be followed in the event of an emergency shall be provided for every person on board. In the case of passenger ships these instructions shall be drawn up in the language or languages required by the ship's flag State and in the English language.</p>   | <p>For passenger ships the instructions shall be drawn up in English and additionally in any other language that is normally spoken by a majority of the passengers.</p>   |
| <p>REG 10.4<br/>Page 239</p> | <p><u>Survival craft</u><br/>A deck officer or certificated person shall be placed in charge of each survival craft to be used. However, the Administration, having due regard to the nature of the voyage, the number of persons on board and the characteristics of the ship, may permit persons practised in the handling and operation of liferafts to be placed in charge of liferafts in lieu of persons qualified as above. A</p> | <p>For liferafts the Ship Registry may accept a person practised in the handling and operation of liferafts in lieu of a deck officer or certificated person on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p><u>For passenger ships</u></p> <p>a. For every lifeboat boarded at the stowed position and capable of release and lowering from inside the boat, two qualified persons are required per lifeboat.</p> <p>b. For every lifeboat boarded at the stowed position and capable of being lowered from inside the boat after release externally, two qualified persons per lifeboat, plus one additional person for every two boats.</p>   |



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|                      | second-in-command shall also be nominated in the case of lifeboats.   | <p>c. For every lifeboat both released and lowered from the ship, three qualified persons per lifeboat.</p> <p>d. For each davit launched liferaft, one qualified person per liferaft plus one additional person for each davit.</p> <p>e. For each Marine Escape System, four qualified persons per system plus one additional person for each raft associated with the system.</p> <p><b>'Qualified person' means a member of the crew who holds a certificate of proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats (other than fast rescue boats) issued in accordance with the STCW Regulation VI/2.1.</b></p> |
| REG 11.7<br>Page 239 | <p><u>An embarkation ladder</u> complying with the requirements of paragraph 6.1.6 of the Code extending, in a single length, from the deck to the waterline in the lightest seagoing condition under all conditions of trim of up to 10° and a list of up to 20° either way shall be provided at each embarkation station or at every two adjacent embarkation stations for survival craft launched down the side of the ship. However, the Administration may permit such ladders to be replaced by approved devices to afford access to the survival craft when waterborne, provided that there shall be at least one embarkation ladder on each side of the ship. Other means of embarkation enabling descent to the water in a controlled manner may be permitted for the liferafts required by regulation 31.1.4.</p> | This would be determined by the Ship Registry on a case-by-case basis.  |
| REG 12<br>Page 240   | <p><u>Launching stations</u><br/>Launching stations shall be in such positions as to ensure safe launching having particular regard to clearance from the propeller and steeply overhanging portions of the hull and so that, as far as possible, survival craft, except survival craft specially designed for free-fall launching, can be launched down the straight side of the ship. If</p>  | Where required, approval of launching stations will be delegated to ROs.  |



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|                      | positioned forward, they shall be located abaft the collision bulkhead in a sheltered position and, in this respect, the Administration shall give special consideration to the strength of the launching appliance.          |   |
| REG 17.3<br>Page 242 | <u>Rescue boats</u><br>All rescue boats shall be capable of being launched, where necessary utilizing painters, with the ship making headway at speeds up to 5 knots in calm water.   | The Ship Registry accepts simulation of the 5 knot test by means of lowering into an approximate 5 knot tidal stream or lowering into the wake of a tug. This is required to be carried out on every ship, not just the first in the series.  |
| REG 17.5<br>Page 242 | <u>Rescue boat embarkation</u> and recovery arrangements shall allow for safe and efficient handling of a stretcher case. Foul weather recovery strops shall be provided for safety if heavy fall blocks constitute a danger. | Lifeboats which are also rescue boats, need not be fitted with recovery strops if a chain or wire of adequate strength and flexibility is fitted between the lower fall block and the attachment to the lifting hooks. For this purpose the length of the chain or wire, including the link for attachment to the lifting hook, should be at least 1.25m.<br>If a chain or wire is not fitted, the lifeboat which is designated as a rescue boat must have recovery strops fitted. The recovery strops and hanging off pendants certificates must have a test certificate provided on board. When considering the strength and the testing of the components, the following factors of safety must be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanging off pendants and davit structure, a working load consisting of the weight of the rescue boat, equipment and provisions plus six persons at 82.5kg</li> <li>• Hanging off pendants (based upon the breaking strength of the wire and recovery strops) should have a factor of safety of at least 6.</li> <li>• The hanging off pendant attachments on the davit should be designed with a factor of safety of at least 4.5. The davit structure should also maintain a factor of safety of 4.5 when hanging off the working load with the ship trimmed up to 10 degrees and listed up to 20 degrees each side. To be tested at weight of fully stored boat plus 6 persons at 82.5kg.</li> </ul> Where the recovery arrangements entail disembarkation at a deck level other than the embarkation deck, bowing arrangements should be provided for both decks. |



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| <p>REG<br/>19.3.3.5<br/>Page 244</p> | <p><u>Ships on short international voyages</u><br/>The Administration may allow ships operating on short international voyages not to launch the lifeboats on one side if their berthing arrangements in port and their trading patterns do not permit launching of lifeboats on that side. However, all such lifeboats shall be lowered at least once every three months and launched at least annually.</p> | <p>The Ship Registry may allow this on a case-by-case basis.</p>   |
| <p>REG<br/>20.8.3.3<br/>Page 247</p> | <p><u>Inflatable liferaft arrangements</u><br/>An Administration which approves new and novel inflatable liferaft arrangements pursuant to regulation 4 may allow for extended service intervals on the following conditions:</p>   | <p>SLS.14/Circ.573, SLS.14/Circ.576 and SLS.14/Circ.264 permit extended service intervals (of up to 30 months) for certain, specified liferafts. Refer to the circular letter for full list of liferafts and conditions under which extended service intervals are accepted.</p> |
| <p>REG<br/>31</p>                    | <p><u>Lifeboats with a self-contained air support system</u><br/>complying with section 4.8 of the LSA Code</p>   | <p>Hydrostatic tests of lifeboat air cylinders must be carried out at intervals not exceeding 5 years.</p>   |



## Reference Material:

Documents referred to in this MSN:

- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), Chapter III: Life-saving appliances and arrangements;
- MSN 20 Recognised Organisations;
- Merchant Shipping (SOLAS Chapter III)(LSA) Regulations 2017;
- Merchant Shipping (LSA) (Ships built before 1 July 1986) Regulations 1991;
- Merchant Shipping (LSA) Regulations 1999 – applies to cargo ships under 500gt;
- Resolution MSC.1(XLV), 20 November 1981, Adoption of amendments to SOLAS;
- Resolution MSC.27(61), December 1992, Adoption of amendments to SOLAS;
- Resolution MSC.350(92), 21 June 2013, Amendments to SOLAS;
- Resolution MSC.48(66) 4 June 1996, Adoption of the LSA Code;
- Resolution MSC.368(93) 22 May 2013, Amendments to the LSA Code;
- Resolution MSC.81(70) 11 Dec 1998, Revised recommendations on testing LSA;
- Resolution MSC.378(93), 22 May 2014, Amendments to the revised recommendation on testing of LSA (Resolution MSC.81(70), as amended);
- Resolution MSC.402(96), 19 May 2016 Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear;
- Resolution MSC.404(96), 19 May 2016, Amendments to SOLAS;
- MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, 11 June 2009, Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats;
- MSC.1/Circ.1277, 23 May 2008, Interim recommendation on conditions for authorization of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear;
- MSC.1/Circ.1205/Rev.1, 26 June 2019, Revised guidelines for developing operational and maintenance manuals for lifeboat systems;
- MSC.1/Circ.1578, 19 June 2017, Guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats;
- MSC.1/Circ.1618, 26 June 2019, Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Chapter III;
- MSC.1/Circ.1392, 27 May 2011, Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems;
- MSC.1/Circ.1530, 6 June 2016, UI of SOLAS Regulations III/6.4 and III/6.5 and section 7.2 of the LSA Code;
- MSC/Circ.808, Recommendation on performance standards for public address systems on passenger ships, including cabling;
- MSC/Circ.1046, 28 May 2002, Guidelines for the assessment of thermal protection;
- MSC.1/Circ.1490/Rev.1, 25 Nov 2016, Revised UI of SOLAS Reg III/31.1.3
- MSC/Circ.1114, 25 May 2004, Guidelines for periodic testing of immersion suit and anti-exposure suit seams and closures;
- SLS.14/Circ.573, SLS.14/Circ.576 & SLS.14/Circ.264: SOLAS – Equivalent arrangements accepted under Reg I/5- extended service intervals for inflatable liferafts – UK

Most Regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government website: [www.iomshipregistry.com](http://www.iomshipregistry.com) or by contacting [marine.survey@gov.im](mailto:marine.survey@gov.im)

*Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from ship to ship. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.*



APPENDIX 1

Flowchart for the 5 yearly, annual and weekly/monthly maintenance and testing of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear in accordance with MSC.402(96)

