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## GUIDELINES ON CARRIAGE OF IMMERSION SUITS (REG III/32.3 OF SOLAS 74)

1 Storage locations of immersion suits required by Reg III/32.3 of SOLAS 74 are not prescribed in the Regulations. It is left to owners and operators to decide how best the storage of these immersion suits can be arranged to suit the operational needs and safety management system of the vessel.

2 The number of immersion suits to be provided in compliance with Reg III/32.3 of SOLAS 74 should correspond to the total number of persons indicated in Section 2.1 (Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided) of Form E (Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate).

3 For ships whose actual number of crew is less than the total number of persons indicated in Section 2.1 of Form E, the number of immersion suits in excess of the actual number of crew on board may be used to meet the requirement of Reg III/32.3.3 (additional immersion suits for persons normally on watch or working at watch or work stations).

4 The immersion suits provided in compliance with Reg III/32.3 of SOLAS 74 may be used for the purpose of compliance with Reg III/7.3 of SOLAS 74 (immersion suits for persons assigned to crew rescue boat or assigned to the marine evacuation system party).

5 There is no requirement to provide additional immersion suits at the location of the additional liferaft stowed as far forward or as far aft stipulated in Reg III/31.1.4.

6 It is not a requirement in the SOLAS 74 regulations to provide immersion suits for children on board. The master should ensure how best the existing immersion suits can be used for a child should it become necessary for a child to don an immersion suit and be evacuated into the sea. Children are not expected to participate in any preparatory activities in the event of emergency where falling into the water may be a probable consequence.

7 Reg III/32.3.3 calls for additional immersion suits to be provided at any watch or work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed. The main objective is to enable a duty personnel at a watch or work station to have immediate hold of an immersion suit at the watch or work station without having to leave the station. Generally, key duty personnel on watch or at a work station may have to hold on to their duty at the station till the very last minute in order to keep the ship in control or in cases where immediate evacuation of the watch or work station to emergency station is necessary, the additional immersion suits stowed at these watch or work stations will serve these duty personnel.

8 Work stations will depend on the organisation and structure of shipboard operation of the vessel. For example, if you were to be asked yourself, "Where does the ship's cook do his work", and if your answer is "the galley", it follows that the galley is a workstation, and has to be provided with an immersion suit or suits for the ship's cook or cooks, if that work station is remotely located, i.e. not adjacent to the place where immersion suits are normally stowed.

9 Any watch or work station which is not on the same deck level as the place where immersion suits are stowed should be regarded as remote. Where the watch or work station is on the same deck level, then more than one compartment away should generally be regarded as remote depending on the generally arrangement of the ship.

10 The additional number of immersion suits to be provided at these remote locations should commensurate with the normal number of people working at these locations in accordance with the operational shipboard organisation and work structure of the ship so that every person normally working at these locations is provided with an immersion suit.

11 Notwithstanding the “UMS” capability of the vessel, sufficient additional immersion suits are required to be provided for day workers in the engine room, and in any other watch or work stations.

12 The ship’s bridge is regarded as a watch station and sufficient additional immersion suits are required to be provided for watch-keeping officers and any lookouts on the bridge. If you have onboard deep sea pilots on a voyage on watch keeping duties on the bridge, they are also to be provided with immersion suits on the watch keeping station.

13 If the forecastle deck store is a work station where crew members are working in the store, sufficient immersion suits are required to be provided for these crew members. However, if crew members simply go to the forecastle deck store to get anything stored there, it is not necessary to provide immersion suits in that location.

14 In cargo control room, if it is required to be manned during periods of time by a person on a voyage while at sea, then the cargo control room is a work station. Similarly, the same consideration may be used in respect of cargo pump room.

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