

Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Mercantile Marine
Merchant Ships Survey Branch
Vessels' Inspection
ENESPE
Postal Address: K. Paleologou 1
Post Code 185 35
Tel. 210-4191863
Fax. 210-4137997
Information: Kiouleoglou M.

Piraeus 24-05-2005

Ref. No. : 4338.1/03/06

To: As attached Table

Subject: PROVISION OF IMMERSION SUITS
Ref.: SOLAS Reg. III/32 (MSC 152(78))

1. You have already been informed that on 01.07.2006 all persons onboard are to be provided with immersion suits, as per SOJ.AS Reg. III/32.
2. Our Department, having considered all requirements related to this subject has decided the following:
 - a) All immersion suits are to be stowed on or next to ship's lifeboats and rescue boats. In case crew accommodation spaces are located close to embarkation stations, immersion suits may be stowed inside each crew member cabin or inside lockers of accommodation.
 - b) According to common working practice we define:
 1. Remote working station.
The place that is located more than 100m horizontally away from immersion suits stowage place.
 2. Remote watch station.
The place of watch (Engine room/wheelhouse) that is located more than 50m horizontally away from immersion suits storage place.
 - c) For the above 1 & 2 cases, at least 2 additional immersion suits are to be provided near their entrance.
 - d) In case the Approved Organization deems necessary for the work or watch stations that more than 10 minutes are required for a person to leave and go to wear his immersion suits (Reg. III/31.1.5), additional immersion suits (2 pcs at least) are also to be provided despite are remote or not.
 - e) For the forward liferaft (if provided), two additional immersion suits are required.
 - f) The ships trading in the following areas, are exempted from this requirement:
 - i) Within Mediterranean and/or Caribbean Sea and from 1st April to 30th October
 - ii) Within Persian Gulf, Red Sea and the zone between lat 20°N and 20°S

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3. The lifejackets required as per paragraph 2.3.1.2 of LSA Code and Reg. III/7.2 and III/32.2 of SOLAS, should remain onboard, regardless if the immersion suits are provided with facilities equivalent to lifejackets.
4. All regular inspections and tests for immersion suits are to be carried out in accordance with IMO MSC/1047/28-5-2002 and 1114/25-5-2004 and SOLAS III/36.
5. Please be advised accordingly.

The Manager
Capt. P.A. Papadopoulos