



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
BUREAU OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

Office Of
Deputy
Commissioner
Of Maritime Affairs

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CC: LISCR Japan
Subject: Testing of Immersion Suits
Your Ref:

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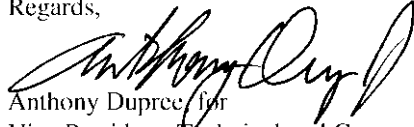
The IMO Maritime Safety Committee in May 2004 issued MSC Circular 1114 regarding the shipboard inspections of immersion suits and anti-exposure suits carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20.7. The provisions of the Circular 1114 are applicable to all ships no matter the flag. The Annex to MSC Circular 1114 states that the air pressure test of the immersion suit may be conducted by an authorized shore facility or on board the ship if suitable equipment is available. This means that the ship's crew can conduct the air test of the immersion suits with the use of proper test equipment in accordance with the guidelines in Circular 1114 and any instructions provided by the manufacturer. Immersion suit manufacturers will provide the ship with the proper test equipment and instructions necessary to conduct the air test of their immersion suits as specified in Circular 1114. Therefore, subject to the following conditions this Administration will allow the ship's crew to conduct air test of the immersion suits on board the ship:

1. The ship must be in possession of the manufacturer's Immersion Suit Service Manual and the appropriate Test Kit
2. The immersion suit air test as specified in MSC Circ.1114 shall be conducted in accordance with the instructions and procedures contained in the manufacturer provided service manual
3. Selected crew members shall be trained in the use of the test equipment and the procedures and instructions in the manufacturer's Service Manual regarding the air test and inspections of the immersion suits. A ship owner's in-house training/qualification program is acceptable. Documentation of the training of the selected ship's crewmembers shall be maintained on board the ship
4. Procedures for the air test and inspection of the immersion suits shall be incorporated into the ship's safety manual system.
5. The air testing and inspection of the immersion suits shall be performed in the presence of and to the satisfaction of an attending class surveyor.
6. The results of the air test and inspection of the immersion suit shall be recorded in the vessel's official logbook and any safety equipment inspection logbook maintained by the vessel.
7. If the immersion suits should require repair such repairs must be made by a manufacturer's authorized service facility.

This Administration is in the process of revising our Marine Notice SAF-001 to incorporate the aforementioned guidance. The revised Marine Notice will be distributed to all ROs and Liberian ship owners. The abovementioned policy regarding air test of the immersion suits by the ship's crew is applicable now to Liberian flag ships. Please distribute this policy to all ClassNK office and surveyors

If you have any questions on this matter please contact this office.

Regards,



Anthony Dupree for
Vice President, Technical and Communications - LISCR
for the Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
Republic of Liberia

