

GUIDANCE NOTE 09/2019 (Rev 02)

IMO RESOLUTION MSC.402(96) and CIRCULAR MSC.1 Circ.1618

Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear

To: OWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS, CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES and LSA SERVICE COMPANIES.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Guidance Note has been published to advise operators of Red Ensign Group (REG) registered vessels of Resolution MSC.402(96) which entered into force on 1st January 2020 and MSC.1/Circ. 1618 which gives Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Chapter III.

- 2. RESOLUTION MSC 402(96)**
 - 2.1 This Resolution establishes requirements for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear and is summarised as follows:
 - 2.2 All personnel carrying out the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, shall be certified by the manufacturer or an Authorized Service Provider (ASP) for each make and type of equipment to be worked on.
 - 2.3 The requirements for the authorization of ASPs is defined in MSC.402(96) and this includes initial and periodical audits of the ASPs. It has been agreed by the REG that the authorisation of ASPs will be delegated to Recognised Organisations who have been appointed by the individual members of the REG.
 - 2.4 The specific procedures for the inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair is stated in MSC.402(96). This includes the requirements for general maintenance, annual thorough examination and operational testing and five-year thorough examination, overhaul and overload operational tests.
 - 2.5 MSC.402(96) also defines the work which can be carried out by ASPs, ship operators and manufacturers. This has been summarised in the flow chart attached to this Notice.

3 ACTIONS REQUIRED

- 3.1 From the 1st January 2020 ship operators are required to ensure all thorough examinations, operational tests, overhaul and repair of LSA equipment are carried out by personnel certified by an ASP in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) and Circular MSC.1/Circ.1618 for each make and type/model of equipment.

4 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is MSC.402(96) now referenced in SOLAS?

Yes, Resolution MSC.404(96) entered into force on 1st January 2020 and this Resolution amends SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 3 – Definitions, with a new paragraph which references Resolution MSC.402(96).

Has MSC.402(96) replaced previous IMO guidelines?

MSC 402(96) replaces MSC.1/Circular 1206/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circular 1277.

Will an existing approval, issued in compliance with MSC.1/Circ.1277 still be valid after 1st January 2020?

Existing approvals will be valid after 1st January 2020 until the approval's expiry date or until 3 years from the date of issue, whichever occurs first. Once the approval has expired, it will have to be re-issued in accordance with Resolution MSC 402(96).

Will REG accept the authorization of Service Providers issued by other Administrations?

Yes, REG will accept the authorization of service providers issued by other Administrations, this is permitted by MSC 402(96).

What is the definition of "Make and Type" used in section 7 & 8 of MSC 402(96)?

The definition of "Make and type" should be read as per ISO standard ISO/PAS 23678-1:2019(E); Maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear Service Personnel.

This defines Type (Model) as; a category of LSA equipment having common characteristics as identified in the scope of this standard.

Can an ASP be accredited to work on a different manufacturer's equipment?

This is permitted, however the ASP will have to demonstrate during their authorisation process that they have sufficient technical information (e.g. the manufacturer's guidelines)

in order to establish a training program for the make and type of another manufacturer's equipment.

Does a RO or Flag surveyor need to witness any tests or inspections?

As per Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1618, "*the thorough examinations, overhauls and operational tests, carried out at intervals of at least once every five years, should be done in the presence of a surveyor.*".

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)

