

Subject :

Lifejackets for Hong Kong Registered Ships
Fitted with Free-fall Lifeboats

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 187

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To shipowners and shipyards concerned,

The Hong Kong Government has established its requirements for lifejackets equipped, or to be equipped on board ships, registered in Hong Kong and fitted with free-fall lifeboats as their survival craft, and notified the parties concerned by means of Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 7/1996 as follows :

1. All ships built for the Hong Kong Register on and after 1 April 1996 should be equipped with inflatable lifejackets.
2. Ships registered in Hong Kong prior to 1 April 1996 equipped with lifejackets are strongly recommended to replace the lifejackets with inflatable lifejackets.
3. Inflatable lifejackets should comply with the requirements of Regulation III/32(2) of the SOLAS Convention as amended, or Part II of Schedule 10 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Lifesaving Appliances) (Ships Built On or After 1 July 1986) Regulations 1991.
4. Inflatable lifejackets should be serviced annually by an approved service station.

It is sincerely recommended that necessary actions should be taken in accordance with the above requirements or recommendation for the respective ships. Particular attention should also be paid to the availability of approved service stations in the areas where the ships are intended to navigate.

For information, the requirements given by the Government by the Notice are developed with due consideration being given to the present free-fall lifeboats which are not designed/constructed to accommodate crew wearing lifejackets, and to various problems which may arise when crew put on/off such lifejackets before boarding the free-fall lifeboats or within the free-fall lifeboats after boarding.

The End

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