

Subject

Carriage of immersion suits on cargo ships flying
Cyprus, Isle of Man, Liberia and Singapore Flag

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0643

Date 16 November 2005

To whom it may concern

The Cyprus, Isle of Man, Liberia and Singapore Government has notified of carriage of immersion suits as follows.

1. The Cyprus government has notified of carriage of immersion suits for that flagged ships by Ministry of communications and works department of merchant shipping Lemesos Circular No.25/2005 as follows.
 - (1) A ship other than a bulk carrier, as defined in regulation 1/Ch IX/ SOLAS 1974, as amended, which is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates, may be exempted from the said requirement. The following as warm climate sea areas for the scope of exempting ships from this regulation has been defined:
 - (i) The sector of the globe between latitude 30 degrees North and 30 degrees South,
 - (ii) The part of the Mediterranean Sea South of latitude of 35 degrees, and
 - (iii) The coasts of Africa (20 nautical miles) not included in (i) and (ii) above.
 - (2) Workstation is any place of the ship where the crew is occupied performing its normal duties except watch-keeping duties. Remotely located workstations are those located more than 100 metres, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed.
 - (3) Watch station is any place of the ship where the crew performs its normal watch-keeping duties. Remotely located watch stations are those located more than 50 metres, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed.
 - (4) A ship shall continue to carry the number of lifejackets required by regulation 7.2/Ch III/SOLAS 1974, as amended, even if its immersion suits are classified as lifejackets.
 - (5) Ministry of communications and works department of merchant shipping Lemesos Circular No.25/2005 must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.
2. The Isle of Man government has notified of carriage of immersion suits for that flagged ships by Manx Shipping Notice No.236 as follows.
 - (1) Immersion suits required by Regulation 32.3 of Chapter III of 04 Amendments to 74 SOLAS may not be equipped, if the ship other than bulk carrier as defined in regulation SOLAS IX/1 is constantly engaged on voyages between the parallels of 30 degrees North and South.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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- (2) The number of Immersion Suits required shall be the same as “Total Number of Persons for which LSA is provided” as stated on the Safety Equipment Certificate or Cargo Ship Safety Certificate. Suitable immersion suits should also be provided for children when carried.
 - (3) If the immersion suits cannot be readily accessed at the vessel Muster Points, 10% additional (minimum 2) immersion suits are required for people working at remote control stations (bridge & engine room). However there may be specialist vessels in which it is necessary to consider additional immersion suits at other remote work stations, and such cases will be considered. Additional immersion suits are not required for the Rescue Boat Crew or Marine Evacuation System Parties over and above the total number provided in (2) above.
 - (4) Companies should carry out an assessment of the best location for their vessels and amend Safety Plans and Familiarization Training accordingly. There is no requirement for immersion suits to be stowed near the forward liferaft where provided.
 - (5) Please ensure that orders are placed for immersion suits in time to meet the implementation date. It is expected that manufacturers will be inundated with orders and there is a risk that late orders may not be fulfilled in time to meet the regulations.
 - (6) Owners and Managers are also advised to re-evaluate the emergency procedures on board and make any necessary changes (including drills and exercises) where necessary to incorporate the new provision of immersion suits and their use.
 - (7) All Immersion Suits must comply with the requirements of 2.3 of the Life Saving Appliances Code published by IMO and be type approved.
3. The Liberia government has notified of Lifesaving Equipment for that flagged ships by Bureau of Maritime Affairs Marine Notice SAF-001 Rev.04/05 as follows.
- (1) For purposes of SOLAS Regulations III/7.3, 22.4.1.2, III/32.3, Liberia defines warm climates as being that between 32 degree North and 32 degree South latitudes. For vessels, other than bulk carriers operating exclusively within this trading zone, immersion suits and thermal protective aids will not be required. The thermal protective aids required by LSA Code Sections 4.1.5.1.24, 4.4.8.31, and 5.1.2.2.13, however, are an integral part of survival craft and rescue boat equipment which must be provided regardless of vessel route.
 - (2) Liberia defines cold climates as the areas of operation above 50 degree N and 50 degree S latitudes. For the prolonged operation of vessels with open lifeboats in cold climates, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner requires that immersion suits constructed in accordance with LSA Code Section 2.3 be provided for all persons on board.
 - (3) As an example each such ship, in addition to the immersion suit for every person carried on board, shall be required to carry at least one additional immersion suit of adequate size near the additional liferaft(s) when fitted forward or aft, so that the immersion suits may be available to the crew working out on deck away from the accommodation block.

(To be continued)

- (4) A number of additional immersion suits may also be required at other locations if the vessels class society determines that there are watch or work stations, which are so remote from the place where a crewman's immersion suit is stored, that in an emergency it is unreasonable to expect a crewman could acquire the assigned immersion suit.
 - (5) Immersion suits and thermal protective aids are to be assigned by the Master. It is recommended that they should be kept in staterooms along with life jackets.
4. The Singapore government has notified of carriage of immersion suits for Singapore flagged ships by Survey Circular No.1/2005. For ships other than bulk carriers, as defined in SOLAS regulation IX/1, the immersion suits need not be required if the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates where, in the opinion of the Administration, immersion suits are unnecessary by revised SOLAS Reg. III/32.3.2 (in force 1st July 2006). And it has been notified that Singapore government has reviewed the band of latitudes within which voyages are deemed to be in warm climates for the purpose of the regulations and henceforth, voyages within the latitudes of 30° N and 30° S are deemed to be voyages in warm climates where, for Singapore-registered ships, carriage of immersion suits, anti-exposure suits and thermal protective aids are not required save for the exception in that regulation.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment:

1. Ministry of communications and works department of merchant shipping Lemesos Circular No.25/2005



**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS**

04 October 2005

Circular No. 25 /2005

TEN 5.13.09

TEN 4.28.03.5

TEN 16.17.18

To all Owners, Managers and Representatives
of ships under the Cyprus Flag.

To all recognised Classification Societies and Inspectors of Cyprus Ships

Subject: Immersion Suits – Interpretation needed for the implementation of new provisions.

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organisation adopted on 20 May 2004, with Resolution MSC.152(78) amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended. These amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2006, if no objection is raised by the Contracting Governments to SOLAS 1974, as amended, in accordance with Article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) and shall enter into force on 1 July 2006.

1. With reference to the above amendments, paragraph 3 of regulation 32/Ch III/SOLAS 1974, as amended, states that an immersion suit must be provided for every person on board cargo ships.
2. A ship other than a bulk carrier, as defined in regulation 1/Ch IX/ SOLAS 1974, as amended, which is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates, may be exempted from the said requirement. The Department of Merchant Shipping, having considered the Guidelines for assessment of thermal protection (MSC/Circ. 1046), decided to define the following as warm climate sea areas for the scope of exempting ships from this regulation:
 - (i) The sector of the globe between latitude 30 degrees North and 30 degrees South.
 - (ii) The part of the Mediterranean Sea South of latitude of 35 degrees.
 - (iii) The coasts of Africa (20 nautical miles) not included in (i) and (ii) above.
3. Workstation is any place of the ship where the crew is occupied performing its normal duties except watch-keeping duties. Remotely located workstations are those located more than 100 metres, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed.

4. Watch station is any place of the ship where the crew performs its normal watch-keeping duties. Remotely located watch stations are those located more than 50 metres, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed.
5. The monthly inspection of immersion suits required by regulation 20.7 /Ch III/ SOLAS 1974, as amended, must be carried out in accordance with the attached Guidelines approved by MSC on 28 May 2002 (MSC/Circ.1047).
6. A periodic testing of the immersion suits, in accordance with the attached Guidelines approved by MSC on 25 May 2004 (MSC/Circ.1114), must be carried at intervals not exceeding three years. Immersion suits over three years of age must be tested by the next safety equipment survey.
7. The shore-based stations which have been accepted to provide services to Cyprus ships must fulfil the criteria of my Circular No. 12/2001 dated 15 June 2001.
8. A ship shall continue to carry the number of lifejackets required by regulation 7.2/Ch III/SOLAS 1974, as amended, even if its immersion suits are classified as lifejackets.
- 9. This Circular must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.**



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Director
Department Of Merchant Shipping

cc:
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Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic
Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Cyprus Shipping Council
Cyprus Union of Shipowners
PEO Trade Union
SEK Trade Union
Cyprus Bar Association