

Subject

Carriage of immersion suits on cargo ships flying Malta and Panama Flag

ClassNK

Technical Information

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To whom it may concern

1. The Malta government has notified the Society of the carriage requirements with respect to immersion suits on Maltese-flagged ships applicable upon the entry into force on 1 July 2006 of amended Regulation 32.3.
 - (1) A ship other than a bulk carrier, as defined in SOLAS 74 Chapter IX Regulation 1, as amended, which is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates, may be exempted from Reg.32.3.2 (amendments adopted by Res.MSC152(78)). The following sea areas have been defined as warm climate sea areas for the scope of application of exemption provisions contained in the regulation:
 - (i) the sea area between the parallels of latitude 30 degrees North and 30 degrees South
 - (ii) the sea area of the Mediterranean Sea south of latitude 35 degrees North
 - (iii) the sea area within 20 nautical miles from the coasts of Africa not included in the sea areas above
 - (2) On ships that are required to provide every person onboard with an immersion suit complying with the requirements of the Life-Saving Appliances Code Section 2.3 there shall also be available:
 - (i) at least two additional immersion suits of the same type located in the navigating bridge
 - (ii) at least two additional immersion suits of the same type located in the engine room
 - (iii) at least two additional immersion suits of the same type located at workstations where the crew performs its normal duties (except watch-keeping duties), if the horizontal distance from the workstations to the stowage position of the immersion suits is more than 100 metres
 - (3) Immersion Suits may be either stored at clearly identifiable locations close to the lifeboat stations or alternatively be distributed to each individual member of the crew.
 - (4) Lifejackets required by SOLAS 74 Chapter III Regulation 7.2 shall be retained onboard regardless of the type of immersion suits provided.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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2. The Panamanian Government has notified of carriage of immersion suits for that flagged ships by Merchant Marine Circular No.144 as follows.
- (1) New cargo ships constructed after 1 July 2006 and existing cargo ships no later than the first safety equipment survey on or after 1 July 2006 shall carry immersion suits for every person onboard the ship subject to these regulations and based “Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided” in the Safety Equipment Certificate (Form E). Suitable immersion Suits should also be provided for children where carried.
 - (2) Any ship subject to this regulation will also provide additional immersion suits so that individuals who will be working some distance from the place where a crewman's immersion suit is stored. These places will include, but not limited to the Navigation Bridge, Engine Room, and any other places onboard the ship that in accordance with the type of ship, should be considered as a permanent working place. On the above mentioned places, the ship must carry at least Two (2) Immersion Suits because in an emergency it is unreasonable to expect a crewman could acquire the assigned immersion suit.
 - (3) Immersion suits and thermal protective aids are to be assigned by the Master. It is recommended that they should be kept in the crew cabins along with life jackets.
 - (4) A ship other than bulk carrier as defined in SOLAS 74 Chapter IX Regulation 1, as amended, which is constantly engaged on voyages in Warm Climates, between Latitude 32 degrees North and 32 degrees South, may be exempted from the said requirements.
 - (5) All immersion Suits must comply with the requirements of Section 2.3 of the LSA Code.
 - (6) Ship shall continue to carry the number of Lifejackets Required by SOLAS 74 Chapter III Regulation 7.2, as amended, when the immersion suits are classified as Lifejacket.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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