

Subject

Carriage of immersion suits on cargo ships flying Cayman Islands, Saudi Arabian, Belizean, Marshall Islands, Kuwaiti, Cypriot and Vanuatu Flag

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0673
Date 6 October 2006

To whom it may concern

The Cayman Islands, Saudi Arabian, Belizean, Marshall Islands, Kuwaiti, Cypriot and Vanuatu Government have notified of carriage of immersion suits for that flagged ships as follows.

1. The Cayman Islands Flag
 - (1) The number of immersion suits to be provided in compliance with SOLAS 74 Chapter III Reg.32.3 of SOLAS 74 should correspond to the total number of persons indicated in Section 2.1 (Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided) of Form E (Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate).
 - (2) At least 2 spares should be provided as additional immersion suits.
 - (3) The immersion suits should be located in a position that is readily accessible in the event of an emergency.
 - (4) It is recommended that the additional immersion suits are stored on the bridge and the engine control room.
2. The Saudi Arabian Flag

“Warm climates” specified in SOLAS Chapter III Reg.32.3.2 is defined between 30 degree North and 30 degree South latitudes.
3. The Belizean Flag
 - (1) Remotely located stations are the watch or work stations within the navigation bridge, the machinery space and any other work and watch station(s) where the horizontal distance from the nearest storage of immersion suits is greater than 100 meters in length.
 - (2) Warm Climates are the sea areas where the approximate variation of seawater temperature ranges above 20 degrees. The geographical sectors where these variations take place has been accepted as being between 30 degree North and 30 degree South of the Equator.
 - (3) Immersion suits may be stored in either one or more muster and embarkation stations or otherwise distributed through out the crew cabins in readily accessible and clearly marked locations.
 - (4) In addition to the number of suits required for each person on board, a number of suits shall be placed in remotely located stations. A minimum of two for the navigation bridge; two for the machinery space and two for any other location meeting the criteria of (1), will be considered satisfactory by the Administration.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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- (5) One immersion suit is required for each person on board at the time. The suits must be of an approved type in accordance with the LSA Code and be provided in sizes appropriate for the crew onboard.
 - (6) It should be noted that changes in the arrangement, storage and location of immersion suits will entail amendments in safety procedures and/or instructions that might need to be endorsed by the Recognized Organization issuing the ISM Certification.
 - (7) A ship other than bulk carrier as defined in SOLAS Chapter IX Reg.1, which is constantly engaged in voyages in warm climates, shall apply for an exemption to be issued by the Administration.
 - (8) A vessel that has been trading in warm climates and which has been previously issued with an exemption to carry immersion suits where the geographical sectors fall outside the 30° North and 30° South as prescribed in MSC/Circ. 1046, shall apply to IMMARBE for the re-issuance of the exemption.
4. The Marshall Islands Flag
- (1) A Normal work location is a location where a crew member carries out normal work functions other than watch keeping. Examples include but are not limited to: control rooms, machine shops, galleys and offices. These locations would be considered remote if the individual could not reasonably retrieve their assigned immersion suit in the event of an emergency.
 - (2) The Administration considers voyages in warm climates to be those within the zone between 30 degree North and 30 degree South latitudes.
 - (3) 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.
5. The Kuwaiti Flag
- (1) Additional immersion suits are to be provided where the work stations located remotely, like the same way for the life jackets, say 3 numbers (minimum) with the forward or aft life raft as required as per SOLAS Chapter III Reg.31.1.4.
 - (2) If any other work stations or watch stations on board such as W/H or E/R are 50 m away from normally stowed places, additional immersion suits are to be provided.
6. The Cypriot Flag
- (1) An immersion suit must be provided for every person on board cargo ships.
 - (2) A ship shall continue to carry the number of lifejackets required by regulation SOLAS Chapter III Reg.7.2, even if the immersion suits onboard are classified as lifejackets.

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- (3) A ship other than a bulk carrier, as defined in SOLAS Chapter IX Reg.1, as amended, which is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates, may be exempted from the requirement. The Administration, having considered the Guidelines for Assessment of Thermal Protection (MSC/Circ. 1046), designates 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 Mediterranean Sea during the summer period (between April 1st and October 31st).
 - (iv) The coasts of Africa (within 20 nautical miles from the shore) not included in (i) and (ii) above.
- (4) A 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 m, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed. If a ship has such remote workstations, or places where additional liferafts (fwd or aft) are required in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Reg.31.1.4, then, at least two additional immersion suits must be placed at each of those stations.
- (5) A 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 m, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed. If a ship has such remotely located watch stations, then at least two additional immersion suits must be placed at each of those watch stations.
- (6) The immersion suits shall be so placed as to be readily accessible and their position shall be clearly indicated. The vessel's Fire Control & Life Saving Appliances Plan must be updated accordingly.
- (7) The following two options may be considered for the storage of immersion suits:
- (i) **Storage: Immersion Suits to be stored on deck in a box or a centralised accessible store room within or outside of the accommodation (on the way to, or in the vicinity of the assembly stations or survival craft stations).**
Quantity: If this solution is implemented, the quantity of the immersion suits to be placed onboard, is equal to the number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided, as stated on the record of equipment of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, plus (if applicable) the immersion suits required by virtue of paragraphs (4) and (5).
 - (ii) **Storage: Immersion Suits to be placed in Crew Cabins.**
Quantity: If this solution is implemented, the quantity of the immersion suits to be placed onboard, is equal to the number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided, as stated on the record of equipment of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate; additionally, there should be at least two readily available immersion suits located in the Navigation Bridge and at least two located in the Engine Control Room, plus (if applicable) the immersion suits required by virtue of paragraphs (4) and (5).
- (8) Circular No.12/2006 supersedes Circular No. 25/2005 issued on 4 October 2005 (ClassNK Technical Information TEC-0643, 1.carriage of immersion suits for Cyprus flag issued on 16 November 2005).

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(9) Circular No.12/2006 must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.

7. The Vanuatu Flag

Sufficient immersion suits are placed on board a vessel to cover a minimum of 100% of the normal complement of watch standers on the bridge, in the engine room (or at a convenient location readily accessible to engine room personnel), and at any other daily work/watch station, plus one spare immersion suit at each such location, with a minimum of 2 suits per station.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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