

Subject

Instruction for the cases where certified service suppliers to carry out thorough examination of lifeboats and launching appliances are not available

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0677
Date 17 October 2006

To whom it may concern

In accordance with “Guidelines for Periodic Servicing and maintenance of Lifeboats, Launching Appliances and On-load Release Gear” (MSC.1/Circ.1206 (Revision to MSC/Circ.1093)), annual thorough examination and operations test, 5-years-periodical thorough examination and operations test under 1.1 times overload conditions, and repairs should be carried out by the manufacturer’s representative or a person appropriately trained and certified by the manufacturer.

However, we have experienced cases where manufacturer certified service suppliers are not available, because the manufacturers are no longer in such business or have not established worldwide network for servicing at the moment.

Accordingly, the Para.9 of the above guidelines, where satisfied with an organization’s ability to carry out these functions, the Administration may authorize such organization and its personnel to perform the functions of the manufacturer and manufacturer’s certified personnel as assigned under these Guidelines, if manufacturer certified facilities are not available.

This technical information provides the instructions from Administrations which we have been informed so far on this matter.

1. Bahamas
Refer to THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 87 (Attachment 1).
No individual authorization from the Administration is required.
2. Hong Kong
Refer to “Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gears” (Attachment 2).
No individual authorization from the Administration is required.
3. Japan
In principle, servicing should be carried out by the manufacturer’s representative or a person appropriately trained and certified by the manufacturer. In case where such certified service supplier is not available, please contact us in advance.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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- Back numbers are available on ClassNK Internet Homepage (URL: www.classnk.or.jp).

4. Liberia
Refer to the instructions (Attachment 3).
An acceptance of a third party facility - which is not certified by the manufacturer - will be determined for every ship on a case by case basis.
5. Malta
The Administration will accept on a case-by-case basis, an Organization or its personnel to carry out the functions of the Manufacturer and Manufacturer's certified personnel subject to confirmation of necessary information such as the maintenance manuals onboard and the ability of proposed Organization
Annual thorough examinations and relevant tests are carried out in accordance with the Manufacturer's
6. Marshall Islands
Approval or acceptance of service suppliers has been delegated to class societies on behalf of the Administration.
No individual authorization from the Administration is required.
7. Singapore
Refer to SHIPPING CIRCULAR No. 4 of 2006 (Attachment 4).
No individual authorization from the Administration is required.
8. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Refer to CIRCULAR No. SOL 012 (Attachment 5).
No individual authorization from the Administration is required.
9. Panama
The Administration is in the process of publishing a Merchant Marine Circular which is expected to be issued shortly regarding this matter. In the meantime the Administrations policy is to handle these matters on a case by case basis.

Please provide the following information at least when apply for the substitute maintenance supplier certifications except specific instructed from the Administration.

1. Manufacturer and type of the lifeboats and the launching appliances
2. Date and location of service of the proposed services
3. The confirmation that the manufacturer certified service suppliers are not available at the ports ship calls
4. Name of proposed service supplier
5. Documented evidence which shows that the proposed service supplier has ability to carry out the function in accordance with "Guidelines for Periodic Servicing and maintenance of Lifeboats, Launching Appliances and On-load Release Gear" (MSC.1/Circ.1206)

(To be continued)

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment:

1. THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 87
2. Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gears by Hong Kong Marine Dept.
3. Instruction from The Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry
4. SHIPPING CIRCULAR(No. 4 of 2006) by Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
5. CIRCULAR No. SOL 012 by Maritime Administration of St. Vincent and the Grenadines



THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 87

Lifeboat Safety (2)

Guidance and instructions for Ship-owners, Companies, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Inspectors

This bulletin gives guidance on the approach of the BMA to amended SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and associated MSC/Circ.1206 & MSC/Circ.1207. It is issued to support Bulletin No. 72 pending further discussions at IMO.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The issue of lifeboat safety remains a significant concern and the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organisation has, following discussions in MSC 81 of June 2006, issued circulars 1206 – *Measures to Prevent Accidents with Lifeboats* and 1207 – *Early Implementation of Draft SOLAS Regulation III/19.3.3.4*.
- 1.2. This circular is intended to clarify the policy adopted by the BMA in response to these two important circulars, in the light of on-going discussion at IMO which may mandate changes to SOLAS in future.

2. Amended SOLAS III/20.3.3 & III/20.11

2.1. Regulation III/20.3.3

- 2.1.1. This regulation refers to maintenance, testing and inspection of all life-saving equipment and requires that these activities – where they relate to lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear – are carried out as described in paragraph 3 below. It must be noted that specific requirements regarding annual thorough examination and testing of launching appliances and on-load release gear are contained within III/20.11.

2.2. Regulation III/20.11

- 2.2.1. This regulation refers specifically to *verification* of periodic service activities and *annual thorough examination* of lifeboat launching appliances and on-load release gear. The regulation requires that the examination is to be performed at the time of the annual Safety Equipment survey and by “properly trained personnel familiar with the system”.

2.2.2. For the purposes of this Regulation the BMA considers that “properly trained personnel familiar with the system” may be:

- representatives of the manufacturer, or;
- representatives of an organisation authorised or certified by the manufacturer, or;
- representatives of an organisation authorised under the provisions of paragraph 9 of Annex 1 of MSC/Circ./1206, or;
- other competent persons. Further information on the requirements relating to selection of other competent persons can be found in paragraphs 3.2.3 and 3.2.4 below.

3. Measures to Prevent Accidents with Lifeboats – MSC/Circ.1206

3.1. Relationship to SOLAS Regulations

3.1.1. MSC Circular 1206 supersedes Circ.1049, Circ.1093, Circ.1136 and Circ.1137 and contains valuable guidance on lifeboat safety. Revised regulation III/20.3.1 states that “...maintenance, testing and inspections shall be carried out *based on* the guidelines...” and, while guidelines are not mandatory, the BMA expects that they will be utilised by competent persons and strongly recommends their use (as far as practicable) to all Companies which operate Bahamian ships. Following the guidelines will demonstrate that the Company has acted responsibly in meeting the relevant Regulation.

3.2. Requirements for personnel performing inspection, servicing and repair

- 3.2.1. Annex 1 paragraph 15 of the guidelines requires that the manufacturer’s representative, or the person authorised by the manufacturer, issues a statement of fitness for purpose of the lifeboat arrangements on completion of repairs, thorough servicing and annual servicing.
- 3.2.2. It is noted that there are many vessels fitted with lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear where either the manufacturer is no longer available to carry out this function or manufacturers lack the capacity to meet the requirements of Annex 1 paragraph 12 for the world-wide fleet.
- 3.2.3. It is the intention of Regulation III/20 as supported by MSC/Circ.1206 that the manufacturer, or its authorised agent, will perform the service, maintenance, repair, inspection and examination activities covered by III/20.11 and the Company is expected to engage the manufacturer for this purpose wherever possible. However, in the absence of the manufacturer etc., or where service from the manufacturer etc. cannot reasonably be obtained, these activities may be carried out by some other competent person – i.e. one who has the documented training, knowledge, skills and experience necessary to safely complete the task.
- 3.2.4. It should be noted that the BMA does not anticipate authorising organisations to perform the activities of the manufacturer under Annex 1 paragraph 9. In line with the responsibilities specified in Annex 1 paragraph 6 the Company is responsible for assessing and selecting a suitable competent person and appropriate procedures relating to this activity must be established within the Safety Management System.
- 3.2.5. The Company is responsible for ensuring that the competent person carrying out the service, maintenance, repair, and inspection and examination activities covered by III/20.11 is able to present the attending Surveyor with suitable documentary evidence of competence. The Recognised Organisation shall, as part of its survey activities and as far as practicable, verify that the person performing inspection and testing activities related

to III/20.11 has been certified by the manufacturer, in accordance with Annex 1 paragraph 10, or the Company in accordance with 3.2.4 above.

- 3.2.6. Records of all activities relating to the referenced regulations must be retained on board for inspection by Bahamas Inspectors, Recognised Organisation Surveyors and Port State Control Officers.

4. Early Implementation of Draft SOLAS Regulation III/19.3.3.4 – MSC/Circ. 1207

- 4.1. In noting the intent of MSC/Circ.1207 in relation to the safe conduct of drills for launch of free-fall lifeboats and the expiry of MSC/Circ.1115 the BMA implements this circular with effect from 1st July 2006. It is also agreed that early implementation of draft SOLAS Regulation III/19.3.3.4, on the basis of MSC/Circ.1207, will be accepted for vessels under other flags calling at ports in the Bahamas.

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4 September 2006

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Masters and Classification Societies

**Guidelines for Periodic Servicing and Maintenance of
Lifeboats, Launching Appliances and on-load Release Gear**

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 81st session in May 2006, approved the MSC.1/Circ.1206 on *Measures to Prevent Accidents with lifeboats*. This MSC Circular contains *Guidelines for Periodic Servicing and Maintenance of Lifeboats, Launching Appliances and On-load Release Gear* in Annex 1 and the *Specific Procedures for Maintenance and Servicing* in the Appendix. The guidelines and the specific procedures under this MSC Circular relate to the amendments to SOLAS regulation III/20, which came into force on 1 July 2006.

2. In accordance with the MSC circular, companies should employ the manufacturer or a person appropriately trained and certified by the manufacturer to carry out the annual servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliance and on-load release gear. However, there are practical difficulties that ship managers may not be able to source the manufacturer certified facilities or personnel to carry out the servicing and maintenance work. Under such circumstances, in accordance with paragraph 9 in Annex 1 of the MSC.1/Circ. 1206, this Administration would accept another organization to carry out these functions, provided that the following conditions are complied with :-

- a) The organization should be a firm engaging in ship repair/maintenance business, and should have adequate track record to prove that it has sufficient expertise and experience in inspection, repair, testing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching

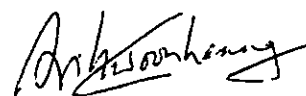
appliances and on-load release gear to the satisfaction of the ship's Classification Society;

- b) When carrying out servicing and maintenance, the organization should follow the Guidelines in the Annex 1 and the Specific procedures as stated in the Appendix of MSC.1/Circ.1206;
- c) The five-yearly dynamic operational test of the winch brake should be witnessed by and conducted to the satisfaction of the attending Classification Society surveyor; and
- d) Upon completion of the services, reports and records as mentioned in para. 13 to 15 of Annex 1 of MSC.1/Circ. 1206 should be properly maintained on board.

3. Please be advised that this Administration would not accept a shipboard staff to carry out the annual servicing and maintenance of lifeboat, launching appliance and on-load release gear unless the shipboard staff has been appropriately trained and certified by the manufacturer.

4. A copy of the MSC.1/Circ.1206 is attached for easy reference. Please feel free to contact the undersigned at tel. no. (852) 2852 4510 if you have any query in respect of the above matter.

Yours faithfully,



(S.W. Cheung)

Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety
For Director of Marine

Encl.

CSW/-

(CSS\LIFEBOAT SERVICING.DOC)

Instruction from The Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry

If this is not a reasonable alternative, we may accept a non-manufacturer certified third party service facility nominated by the owner or the vessel's class society to carry out the thorough examination, servicing, and testing of the lifeboat, the launching appliances and on-load releasing gear subject to the following conditions:

1. The manufacturer's service and maintenance manuals must be available on board for the lifeboat, the lifeboat launching appliance and the on-load release gear.
2. All testing, repairs, and maintenance to the lifeboat, the lifeboat launching appliances and on load releasing gear must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and manuals, the instructions required by SOLAS Reg. III/36, and to the satisfaction of the attending class society surveyor.
3. The non-manufacturer certified third party facility's procedures for the thorough examination, servicing, and testing of the lifeboat, the launching appliances, and on-load releasing gear is acceptable to the attending class surveyor. This does not mean that the third party facility has to be on the class society's approved service facility list. This is a one time review/acceptance for the immediate case involving a particular ship. Preferably the nominated third party facility should be one that has previously conducted thorough examinations, servicing, and testing of lifeboat, launching appliances, and/or on-load releasing gear for equipment made by other manufacturers.
4. The class society is satisfied with the qualifications and knowledge of the personnel conducting the test.
5. Upon completion of the examination, servicing, and applicable testing the facility is required to prepare a written report of the thorough examination and tests and give it to the attending class surveyor. A copy of this report should be maintained on board the vessel. A copy would have to be sent to this office for inclusion in the vessel's record. The report sent to this office should include a copy of the procedures used to carry out the thorough examination, servicing, and applicable testing

When requesting the use of a non-manufacturer certified third party facility in addition to providing the make and model of the lifeboat launching appliance and releasing gear, we ask that we be provided with the following information in addition to any information on the qualifications of the third party facility that you can provide:

1. Year of manufacture of the lifeboat, the lifeboat davits, and the on load releasing gear.
2. Confirmation that the manufacturer's service and maintenance manuals available on board for the lifeboat, the associated launching appliance and the on-load release gear.

3. Name and qualifications of nominated non-manufacturer certified third party service facility. Provide any certification currently held by the facility for servicing and examination of lifeboats and their associated launching gear that may have been issued by other lifeboat manufacturers, class societies, or government Administrations.
4. We would also like to know their history of servicing this type of lifeboat and launching appliance by the shipyard.
5. Confirmation from the classification Society that they are satisfied with the qualifications and knowledge of the personnel conducting the test, and that they will provide oversight of the examination and test of the lifeboat, launching appliance and releasing gear.
6. Proposed date of commencement of the survey.

An acceptance of a third party facility - which is not certified by the manufacturer - will be determined for every ship on a case by case basis. However, once a third party facility is accepted for specific manufacturer's lifeboats and equipment for a vessel operator/owner, there would be no need to resubmit all of the data on the facility each time just identify the nominated facility.



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No. 4 of 2006

08-02-2006

CHANGES IN REGULATION III/20 (OPERATIONAL READINESS, MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTIONS) OF SOLAS 74 ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION MSC.152(78) ON 20 MAY 2004 WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JULY 2006 AND THE REFERENCE TO MSC CIRCULAR MSC/Circ.1093 DATED 17 JUNE 2003

Applicable to: Shipowners, shipmanagers, shipping-agents, masters and officers of Singapore ships

This circular is to inform of the changes to the maintenance requirements for launching appliances and on-load release gear stipulated in SOLAS Reg III/20 with effect from 1 July 2006.

Regulation III/20.3 (Maintenance) of SOLAS 74 has been amended to say that maintenance, testing and inspections of life-saving appliances shall be carried out based on the guidelines set out in Circular MSC/Circ.1093 dated 17 June 2003 issued by IMO and in a manner having due regard to ensuring reliability of such appliances.

2 Regulation III/20.11 (Periodic servicing of launching appliances and on-load release gear) has also been amended to require launching appliances to be subjected to a thorough examination at annual surveys in respect of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate and the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate. Upon completion of the thorough examination, the launching appliances are required to be subjected to a dynamic test of the winch brake at maximum lowering speed. The load to be applied in the test is to be the mass of the lifeboat without persons on board, except that, at intervals not exceeding 5 years, the test shall be carried out with a proof load of 1.1 times the maximum working load of the winch. Before the amendment, thorough examination is required at intervals not exceeding 5 years.

3 These amendments were adopted by Resolution MSC.152(78) on 20 May 2004 and will come into force on 1 July 2006.

4 We would like to bring your attention to the above amended requirements which will come into effect on 1 July 2006 and the following pertinent points in the guidelines set out in MSC Circular MSC/Circ.1093¹ (Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear) —

(a) The Company, as defined in SOLAS Regulation IX/1.2, is responsible for servicing and maintenance onboard its ships in accordance with SOLAS Regulation III/20 (Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections).

(b) Except for weekly and monthly inspections, and routine maintenance as defined by the manufacturer, all inspections, servicing and repair should be conducted by the manufacturer's representative or a person appropriately trained and certified by the manufacturer for the work to be done.

(c) In cases where the manufacturer is unable to provide the service mentioned in (b) above, the Company may permit a service provider to carry out the work if the Company has determined that the service provider has sufficient technical knowledge and experience and is competent to do the work. The service provider shall be acceptable to the

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Classification Society which issues the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate to the vessel.

5 Shipowners, shipmanagers, shipping-agents, masters and officers of Singapore ships, and in particular, Companies, as defined in SOLAS Regulation IX/1.2, are to take note of the above amended requirements and the contents of MSC/Circ.1093. We advise those concerned to take pre-emptive measures well before the amended requirements come into force on 1 July 2006. Some of these measures are, but not limited to, the following:

(a) ascertain the names and addresses of the manufacturers of the launching appliances and on-load release gears on their ships;

(b) get in touch with the manufacturers or their representatives or a person appropriately trained and certified by them for the work to be carried out on launching appliances and on-load release gears on their ships;

(c) make contingency plans for the event that the manufacturers are unable to provide the service required, or that the manufacturers cannot be determined or traced. In this context, seeking out potential service providers and making a determination of their technical knowledge and experience and competency to carry out the work should form part of the contingency plans, including seeking acceptance of the service provider from the Classification Society which issues the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate to the vessel.

6 A copy of MSC/Circ.1093 circular (Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear) can be found in our website under "Circulars & Notices > Shipping Notices" at:

http://www.mpa.gov.sg/circulars_and_notices/shipping_notices/sp_notices.htm

7 Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to Mr. Tan Leong Beng at Tel No. 6375 6207.

KHONG SHEN PING
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

¹ MSC/ Circ.1093 (GUIDELINES FOR PERIODIC SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF LIFEBOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND ON-LOAD RELEASE GEAR) has been incorporated into Annex 1 of MSC.1/ Circ. 1206 (MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS). MSC.1/ Circ.1206 through Shipping Circular 18 of 2006, available at:

http://www.mpa.gov.sg/circulars_and_notices/shipping_circulars/sc06-18.htm



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 012

Chapter III – Reg. 20.11 (MSC 152(78) Adopted On 25 May 2004)
Periodic Servicing Of Launching Appliances And On-load Release Gear

**TO: SHIPOWNERS & SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS
 SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION
 CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

Monaco, 14 July, 2006

As from 01/07/2006, launching appliances are subject to a thorough examination at the annual surveys and a dynamic test of the winch brake at the maximum lowering speed on an annual basis. The load to be applied shall be the mass of the lifeboat without persons on board. In addition, the lifeboat on-load release gear shall be subjected to a thorough examination and operational test.

These additional examinations and tests should normally take place during the Safety Equipment Annual or periodical survey after 01/07/2006, whatever occurs first.

The thorough examinations/overhauls and tests shall be done in the presence of a Class surveyor.

A - Inspection, servicing and repairs are performed by the manufacturer's representative or a person appropriately trained and certified by the manufacturer for the work to be done.

B - In cases where the relevant manufacturer is unable or unwilling to provide an appropriate level of representation, the ship-owner or operator should contact a service supplier (shipyards or firms, even if not trained and certified by the manufacturer) acceptable by the ship's Class Society or by a Classification Society authorized by this Administration.

C - In some ports it may not be possible or permissible to carry out tests on one or both boats. In such cases, the Flag agreement is to be requested for postponement of the test and additional instructions for endorsement or issuance of a Safety Equipment Conditional Certificate. The request should be forwarded by the field surveyor to the Classification Society Head Office which will liaise with the Flag Administration. The request shall indicate the port and the date where/when the test(s) will be carried out.

Guidance for these tests is displayed in the MSC Circ. 1093.

It is however advisable to perform the requested test before the expected date of the Safety Equipment Annual Survey in order to have all lifeboats tested at the date of the survey, to allow the endorsement of the Safety Equipment Certificate.

On completion of the annual test, an attestation should be issued by the Classification Society.