

Subject

Special requirements for Life-saving appliances and Equipment onboard Marshall Islands flagged vessels

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0796

Date 28 December 2009

To whom it may concern

The Marshall Islands Government has noticed ClassNK of the special requirements for Life-saving appliances and Equipment onboard Marshall Islands flagged vessels (Marine Notice No.2-011-5 Rev. 9/09).

As it is very urgent notice, the notice is attached on this information. Revisions to this Notice are written in *italics*.

Guidance for the survey matters of the notice will be informed by ClassNK Technical Information at a later date.

The followings are the principal revisions for your attention.

1. (Para. 4.2) Embarkation arrangement for remotely located survival craft (A knotted rope is not acceptable as “other means of embarkation”).
2. (Para. 7.2) Falls used in launching Life-saving appliances (*Wire-rope grips are not acceptable.*)
3. (Para. 9.5) A minimum of two(2) lifejackets and two(2) immersion suits for remotely located survival craft

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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1. Marine Notice No.2-011-5 Rev. 9/09

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**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**OFFICE OF THE
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-5

Rev. 9/09

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

SUBJECT: Life-Saving Appliances and Equipment.

- References:**
- (a) SOLAS Consolidated Edition 2004, As Amended by Resolution MSC.216(82)
 - (b) International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code, Resolution MSC.48(66)
 - (c) Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, Resolution MSC.81(70)
 - (d) European Union Council Directive 96/98/EC on Marine Equipment (MED)
 - (e) Recommendations on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Life Rafts, Resolution A.761(18)
 - (f) Adoption of Amendments to the Recommendation on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Life Rafts (Resolution A.761(18)), Resolution MSC.55(66)
 - (g) Measures to Prevent Accidents with Lifeboats (MSC/Circ.1206)
 - (h) Guidelines for Periodic Testing of Immersion Suit and Anti-exposure Suit Seams and Closures (MSC/Circ.1114)
 - (i) Marshall Islands Technical Circular #1
 - (j) Marshall Islands Technical Circular #4 Rev. 1
 - (k) Marine Notice 2-011-14, Maintenance and Inspection of Fire-Protection Systems and Appliances
 - (l) *Guidance on wearing immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1278)*
 - (m) *Guidance for the Fitting and Use of Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs) (MSC.1/Circ.1327)*
 - (n) *IACS Unified Interpretation SC 213*

PURPOSE:

This Notice addresses a number of recent issues and requests involving Life-Saving Appliances aboard Marshall Islands Flag vessels that have been presented to the Administration for interpretation and clarification of its policy. This Notice supersedes Rev. 10/08. It supplements the requirements and provisions of reference (a) and must be considered within that context. Revisions to this Notice are written in italics.

APPLICABILITY:

This Notice applies to all ships, MODUs and mobile offshore units (MOUs) subject to reference (a).

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 Approval of Equipment

- 1.1 The Administration will accept equipment approvals granted by another State that is a Party to the SOLAS Convention, or a Marshall Islands Recognized Organization (RO) on behalf of the Marshall Islands or other Party to the SOLAS Convention; provided, the approvals are fully in accordance with Convention requirements. All newly installed lifesaving equipment must comply with references (a) through (c).
- 1.2 Existing equipment, which was manufactured and tested in accordance with previous SOLAS Convention requirements, may continue to be used as long as it remains in serviceable condition.
- 1.3 The Administration will also accept equipment that has been approved under the EU Marine Equipment Directive (MED) *procedures* – reference (d).
- 1.4 More specific guidance to ROs carrying out this function on behalf of the Administration is provided in Marshall Islands Technical Circular #1 – reference (i).

2.0 Approval of Service Providers

- 2.1 The Administration recognizes servicing facilities that are approved by a State which is Party to the SOLAS Convention or by a Marshall Islands RO on behalf of a Party to the SOLAS Convention; provided the approvals are in compliance with reference (e), as amended by reference (f). This has become necessary because certain suppliers have not developed networks of service stations to support their products, something that owners should be taking into consideration in the selection of such closely regulated items such as these.
- 2.2 The Administration does not, however, maintain a list of every possible service station so recognized by so many authorities all over the world. Nor is the Administration being advised by anyone as to who they are. That's one of the reasons why the Administration relies upon the local knowledge of the extensive network of class society offices. The Classification Society station offices should know of the availability of such service stations in their area that would be considered suitable for this servicing. Whomever they recommend will be acceptable to the Administration.
- 2.3 With regard to the servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear, in cases where manufacturer certified facilities are not available, a non-manufacturer certified facility or properly trained personnel selected by the Company

may be utilized to perform those relevant servicing and maintenance functions, provided the RO is satisfied with the ability of the facility or personnel to carry out these functions.

- 2.4 More specific guidance to ROs carrying out this function on behalf of the Administration is provided in Marshall Islands Technical Circular #1 – reference (i).

3.0 Equipment Servicing

- 3.1 The SOLAS Convention requires that inflatable life rafts, inflatable life jackets, marine evacuation systems, and inflated rescue boats be serviced at approved servicing facilities.
- 3.2 On vessels that have implemented the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) inspection scheme, the inflatable life rafts, any inflatable life jackets, and any installed evacuation systems must be examined and certification of last servicing verified during the annual, periodical, and renewal surveys stipulated in the 1988 SOLAS Protocol. On other vessels, this equipment is to be serviced just prior to, or during, the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate periodical and renewal surveys.
- 3.3 The Classification Society surveyors must be satisfied that the servicing has been completed satisfactorily prior to endorsing or issuing the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or HSSC Cargo Ship Safety Certificate. Attendance of the surveyor during the servicing of the life raft is not mandatory.
- 3.4 The Administration recognizes that annual servicing of the large numbers of life rafts required for passenger ships under their unique voyage conditions may impose difficulties. The Administration therefore *endorses* the servicing of life rafts in smaller more manageable groups throughout the certification year. Each life raft, however, must be serviced in a sequence that ensures that no life raft will exceed a 12-month servicing interval.
- 3.5 The servicing interval and procedures for inflated rescue boats must be in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements. The facility performing the servicing must comply with the requirements of Paragraph 2.1 above.
- 3.6 Maintenance and inspection of lifeboat air cylinders shall be performed in accordance with reference (k). Requirements for the air cylinders for totally enclosed lifeboats shall be the same, where applicable, as with Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus air bottles.
- 3.7 The periodic testing of immersion suits shall be conducted according to reference (h). Suits less than ten years old shall be tested at intervals not exceeding three years; suits older than ten years, or suits which have seams or closures that are in questionable condition may be required to be tested more frequently. Immersion suit air tests may be conducted on board ship if suitable equipment is available. Any necessary repairs should be conducted by an approved service provider in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- 3.8 Annex 1 of reference (g) should be followed for the inspection, maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances, and on-load release gear, taking into account paragraph 2.3 above.

4.0 Life Rafts

- 4.1 Life rafts provided in compliance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 are to be transportable and launchable by one person. They may be stowed in protected positions provided they are readily available at all times. Particular care should be given to their accessibility when deck cargoes are carried. Where appropriate, removable guard rails or bulwarks should be provided to facilitate launching.
- 4.2 *As described in reference (n), remotely located survival craft such as the life rafts provided in compliance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 shall be provided with an embarkation ladder or other means of embarkation enabling descent to the water in a controlled manner as per SOLAS Regulation III/11.7. For this purpose, knotted ropes are not considered an acceptable means of embarkation.*
- 4.3 On occasion, it may be necessary to temporarily carry persons on board in excess of the number currently authorized. When physically possible, the installed lifeboats should be recertified to provide the necessary capacity. If the existing lifeboats are already certified to their maximum capacity, the Administration may allow, for legitimate verifiable reasons, the substitution of inflatable life raft capacity appropriately installed in accordance with regulatory requirements to augment the required lifeboat complement as a temporary measure of equivalency. These temporary measures will be limited to the minimum period of time required for the additional persons to be on board and in general, will not exceed two (2) months. This accommodation will only be allowed with the specific approval of the Administration.

5.0 Lifeboat Damage

- 5.1 When any lifeboat is damaged and declared unseaworthy or is found in need of repair and no replacement boat is readily available, *it may be substituted, as a temporary measure, with life raft(s) capacity for all the persons on board*, but only with specific approval of the Administration. The minimum survival craft capacity prescribed by SOLAS Chapter III must be maintained.
- 5.2 Where the defective boat is a motorboat and there is no other motor lifeboat on board, the total survival craft capacity provided is to include a powered rescue boat meeting the requirements of Regulation III/31.2 of SOLAS.
- 5.3 These temporary measures will be limited to the minimum period of time required for replacement and, in general, will not exceed three (3) months.

6.0 Lifeboat Equipment Dispensation (LSA Code Section 4.4.8.32)

- 6.1 For the purposes of LSA Code Section 4.4.8.32, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units and Mobile Offshore Units (i.e., FPSO, FSU, or other permanent moored factory or storage vessels) while on station and being served by a standby vessel, or when on station and located within 25 kilometers (16 miles) of another manned platform, MODU, MOU, or from a harbor of safe refuge, are considered by this Administration to be engaged on a voyage that will permit the food rations (LSA Code Section 4.4.8.12) and fishing tackle

(LSA code Section 4.4.8.26) to be dispensed with. Lifeboat equipment dispensations for all other vessels will be handled on a case by case basis. Requests for such dispensations should be forwarded to technical@register-iri.com.

7.0 Lifesaving Appliance Falls

7.1 In accordance with reference (a), falls used for launching lifesavings appliances shall be inspected periodically, in accordance with reference (g), with special regard for areas passing through sheaves, and renewed when necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than five (5) years, whichever is the earlier. The *intermediate* turning of the falls end for end is no longer required.

7.2 *All terminations of primary load-bearing wire rope must be formed by wedge sockets, class approved resin or white metal sockets, swaged or spelter fittings or other suitable alternative method approved by class. This includes falls for lifeboats, rescue boats and davit launched life rafts as well as hanging off pendants and recovery strops. Wire-rope grips, such as bulldog grips, are not acceptable for any primary load-bearing terminations. Where wire-rope grips are found to have been used on primary load-bearing terminations, arrangements are to be made for their replacement.*

8.0 Guidance for the Fitting and Use of Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs)

The Administration generally discourages the use of fall preventer devices on lifeboat release systems. However, if FPDs are provided, they must be designed, installed, inspected, and utilized in accordance with reference (m).

9.0 Immersion Suits and Thermal Protective Aids

9.1 Immersion suits shall comply with section 2.3 of reference (b).

9.2 An immersion suit shall be provided for every person on board the ship. 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.

9.3 Additional immersion suits shall be provided for each person on watch or at any normal work location that is remote from where immersion suits are normally stowed. For the purposes of this paragraph, a normal work location is a location where a crew member regularly carries out normal work functions. Examples include but are not limited to: control rooms, machine shops, galleys, offices, and remote lookout positions. These locations would be considered remote if the individual could not reasonably retrieve their assigned immersion suit in the event of an emergency. *At a minimum, additional suits shall be provided to the navigation bridge and the engine control room for all watch standers at those locations.*

9.4 *An immersion suit of appropriate size shall be provided for every person assigned to crew the rescue boat or assigned to the marine evacuation system party in accordance with Regulation 7.3 of Chapter III of reference (a). The immersion suits provided under paragraph 9.2 above may be used to comply with this requirement.*

9.5 *A minimum of two (2) immersion suits and two (2) lifejackets must be provided at locations where remotely located survival craft are stowed in accordance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 and as detailed in reference (n).*

9.6 Reference (a) contains provisions for exempting vessels, other than bulk carriers, as defined in Regulation IX/1 of reference (a), that are constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates from the requirement to carry immersion suits and/or thermal protective aids. The Administration considers voyages in warm climates to be those within the zone between 30° North and 30° South latitudes. 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. Procedures for granting the exemption are found in Marshall Islands Technical Circular #4 Rev. 1 – reference (j).

10.0 *Guidance on wearing immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats*

The Marshall Islands Administration fully concurs with reference (l), and strongly recommends that owners, operators and Masters emphasize those items in paragraph 4 be followed on their vessels. Abandon ship drills are a good opportunity to examine and demonstrate the use of immersion suits. Crew training during these drills should emphasize that immersion suits are intended primarily to ensure thermal protection in cases where the totally enclosed lifeboats cannot be embarked upon.

