



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

No. 4 of 2006

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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.1093(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 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 Circulars" at:

http://www.mpa.gov.sg/sites/circulars_and_notices/pdfs/shipping_circulars/circ1093.pdf

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

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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/sites/port_and_shipping/circulars_and_notices/shipping_circulars_detail.page?filename=sc06-18.xml