



PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

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Directive No. SOLAS/10

LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT

Issued under the enabling power of the Ministerial Resolution 20/2016

Issue Date: 27 December 2016

1 Introduction

(1) With reference to;

- Ports and Maritime Affairs (PMA) resolution no. 8/2016: regarding the implementation of the requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and its amendments
- SOLAS 1974, Chapter III
- International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code, as amended
- Resolution A.761(18): recommendations on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable life rafts
- Resolution MSC.55(66): adoption of amendments to the recommendation on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable life rafts (Resolution A.761(18))
- MSC/Circ.1114: guidelines for periodic testing of immersion suit and anti-exposure suit seams and closures
- MSC.1/Circ.1278: guidance on wearing immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats
- MSC.1/Circ.1243

(2) This directive addresses a number of recent issues and requests involving Life-Saving Appliances aboard Bahraini registered ships.

2 Application

This directive applies to all ships and mobile offshore units (MOUs) subject to SOLAS Convention.

3 Approval of Equipment

(1) The PMA has delegated all equipment approval and issuing of certificates of type approval to the ROs through the delegation agreements, more



specific details regarding type approval is provided in Directive No. SOLAS/02 "Type Approval Certificate for Bahraini Ships"

- (2) All newly installed lifesaving equipment must comply with LSA Code and relevant IMO resolutions and recommendations.
- (1) 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 and meet the IMO performance standards.

4 Approval of Service Stations

- (1) The PMA recognizes servicing facilities that are approved by a State which is Party to the SOLAS Convention or by an RO on behalf of the PMA or other Party to the SOLAS Convention; provided the approvals are in compliance with reference IMO Resolution A.761(18), as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.55(66).
- (2) The PMA does not maintain an exhaustive list of every world-wide service station so recognized. The service station recommended by the RO will be acceptable to the PMA.

5 Equipment Servicing

- (1) The SOLAS Convention requires that inflatable life rafts, inflatable life jackets, marine evacuation systems, and inflated rescue boats to be serviced at approved servicing facilities.
- (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) The RO 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.

- (4) The PMA recognizes that annual servicing of the large numbers of life rafts required for passenger ships under their unique voyage conditions may impose difficulties. The PMA 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.
- (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 4.1 above.
- (6) The periodic testing of immersion suits shall be conducted according to IMO circular MSC/Circ.1114. Suits less than 10 years old shall be tested at intervals not exceeding three (3) years; suits older than 10 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.

6 Life Rafts

- (1) Life rafts provided in compliance with SOLAS Regulation III/31.1.4 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. Consideration should also be given to facilitate launching.
- (2) As described in reference the IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1243, 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.
- (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 PMA 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 PMA.

7 Immersion Suits and Thermal Protective Aids

- (1) An immersion suit shall be provided for every person on board the ship, unless expressly provided otherwise under SOLAS Convention. 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.
- (2) Additional immersion suits as required under SOLAS Regulation III/32.3.3 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 crewmember regularly carries out normal work functions. Examples may include but are not limited to: control rooms, machine/workshops, galleys, offices, and remote lookout positions. Such a work location would be considered remote if it is not in the direct vicinity of the primary survival craft and/or normal stowage position of the individually assigned immersion suits, and could not reasonably be retrieved 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 standards at those locations.
- (3) 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 SOLAS Regulation III/7.3. The immersion suits provided under this requirement may be used to comply with paragraph 7.1 above.
- (4) 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 the IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1243.

- (5) The SOLAS 1974 Convention contains provisions for exempting vessels, other than bulk carriers, as defined in SOLAS Regulation IX/1, that are constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates from the requirement to carry immersion suits and/or thermal protective aids. The PMA considers voyages in warm climates to be those within the zone between 30° North and 30° South latitudes.

8 Guidance on Wearing Immersion Suits in Totally Enclosed Lifeboats

The PMA fully concurs with IMO guidance on wearing immersion suits in totally enclosed lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1278), and strongly recommends that owners, operators and Masters emphasize those items in paragraph 4 of (MSC.1/Circ.1278) 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

9 Penalty

Failure to comply with this directive, the Navigation License may be withdrawn, and/or the ship's master and the company may be fined in accordance with Amiri Decree No. 14/1978.

10 Revision History:

Revision No. 1 of the present Directive is the first revision.

Hassan Ali Al Majed
Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs
27th December 2016