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CIRCULAR

To : All Offices
From : General Manager
ISClass
Date : 27 January 06
Ref : CIR06/0004

CARRIAGE OF IMMERSION SUITS ON CARGO SHIPS

Reference: Resolution MSC.152(78)

APPLICATIONS

1. This circular shall apply to all cargo ships regardless of the date of construction.
2. For cargo ships constructed before 01 July 2006, the new amendments to SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Chapter III, Regulation 32.3 shall be complied with not later than the first safety equipment survey on or after 01 July 2006.

EXEMPTIONS

3. Cargo ships, less bulk carriers, may be exempted from the revised SOLAS regulation provided that the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates within the latitudes of 30⁰N and 30⁰S.
4. Ship owners, who wish to limit their trading limits within the latitudes of 30⁰N and 30⁰S and be exempted from the revised SOLAS regulation, are to apply for the relevant exemption certificate from the Authority.

CLARIFICATION OF NEW AMENDMENTS

5. Adequate number of immersion suits must be provided for at least the same number of persons that the life-savings appliances are provided for.
6. Additional immersion suits shall be provided for the number of persons normally on watch or working in work stations located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed. Remotely located work stations are those located more than 100m, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed.

7. The ship shall continue to carry the minimum number of lifejackets in accordance with SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Chapter III, Regulation 7.2 even if the immersion suits are classified as lifejackets.

8. Suitable immersion suits for children should be provided if children are carried onboard.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT SURVEY

9. All ISClass surveyors are to be informed of the revised SOLAS regulations and conduct the necessary inspections during the course of survey. In the event of any non-compliance on or after 01 July 2006, the vessel shall be issued with a Conditional Safety Equipment Certificate valid not more than 2 months from the date of survey. The conditional certificate shall clearly indicate the following remarks:

“The carriage of immersion suits in compliance with SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Regulation 32.3 shall be provided at the owner’s earliest convenience but not later _____ (see notes).”

Notes: The actual date shall be indicated by the attending surveyor. The allowed duration shall not be more than 2 months from the date of survey.

CONCLUSION

10. All Offices are also strongly encouraged to inform the ship owners of the revised SOLAS amendments.

11. This circular shall take immediate effect.