



INTERNATIONAL SHIP CLASSIFICATION

10 Anson Road, #25-01 International Plaza Singapore 079903
Tel: +65 6225 2565 Fax: +65 6225 2265 Email: Info@isclass.org

CIRCULAR

To : All Offices
From : General Manager
ISClass
Date : 10 Mar 06
Ref : CIR06/0007

INSTALLATION OF VOYAGE DATA RECORDER ON CARGO SHIPS CONSTRUCTED BEFORE 01 JULY 2002

Reference: A. Resolution MSC.170(79)
B. Resolution MSC.163(78)
C. Resolution A.861(20)

INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with Resolution MSC.170(79) adopted on 09 Dec 2004, all international trading cargo ships¹ with GRT of 3000 and above, constructed before 01 July 2002, will be required to fit a Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) which may be a Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR).

APPLICATIONS

2. Arising from Resolution MSC.170(79), the amendment to SOLAS, 1974, as amended, Regulation V/20 (Voyage Data Recorders) shall come into force on 01 July 2006. Deadlines for installing VDR or S-VDR shall be as follows:

- a. For cargo ships with GRT of 20,000 and above, constructed before 01 July 2002, the equipment shall be installed at the first scheduled docking after 01 July 2006 but not later than 01 July 2009.
- b. For cargo ships with GRT of 3000 and above but less than 20,000, constructed before 01 July 2002, the equipment shall be installed at the first scheduled dry-docking after 01 July 2007 but not later than 01 July 2010.

3. Affected cargo ships, which will be taken permanently out of service within 2 years after the implementation dates specified, may be exempted from installing a VDR or S-VDR.

¹ A cargo ship is any ship which is not a passenger ship.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

4. VDR and S-VDR, to be installed, shall at least conform to the performance specifications as listed under Resolutions A.861(20) and MSC.163(78) respectively.

ISSUANCE OF CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATE

5. During the first periodical survey after the implementation dates, surveyors attending the affected ships shall check for the presence and verify the condition of the VDR or S-VDR. If the ship does not comply with Resolution MSC.170(79), the attending surveyor shall withdraw the full term Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate.

6. The attending surveyor shall issue the ship with a conditional Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate valid for not more than 2 months from the date of survey. The following remarks shall be indicated on the conditional certificate:

The ship is to be fitted with a VDR or S-VDR in compliance with SOLAS Regulation V/20 in accordance with the guidelines under Resolution MSC.170(79) at the company's earliest convenience but not later than _____. [Actual date to indicated by attending surveyor but not more than 2 months from the date of survey]

7. A copy of the conditional certificate shall be forwarded to Head Office for retention.

RE-INSTATEMENT OF FULL TERM CERTIFICATE

8. Prior to the re-instatement of the full term certificate, the company shall make the necessary arrangements for the re-attendance of the ship by ISClass surveyor. The attending surveyor shall check for the presence and verify the condition of the VDR or S-VDR.

9. Upon successful verification of the compliance with SOLAS Regulation V/20 in accordance with Resolution MSC.170(79), the attending surveyor shall submit his survey report, together with any relevant supporting objective evidences, to Head Office for review. In the event that clear grounds still exist that the ship is not in compliance SOLAS Regulation V/20, the attending surveyor shall inform the company to arrange for another re-attendance. Under no circumstances shall the expiry date of the conditional certificate be extended beyond the date indicated.

10. Upon successful review of the periodical survey report, Head Office shall re-issue a new full term certificate. The expiry date of the new full term certificate shall be the same as that of the withdrawn full term certificate. Under no circumstances shall Head Office re-issue the new full term certificate before the review of the periodical survey report is completed.

CONCLUSION

11. ISClass surveyors are to be familiar with Resolution MSC.170(79) and inform their impact to ship owners and ship management companies soonest.
12. This circular shall take immediate effect.