



Date: 02nd of July 2020

Circular no.: 0038CTECH/TG/07/20

Subject: "ADDRESSING LIFEBOAT MAINTENANCE – PREVENTING ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS - PERIODIC SERVICING OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR, SOLAS 74 AS AMENDED, AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS REGULATIONS III/3 and III/20 – APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZED SERVICE PROVIDERS"

To: Shipowners / Managers / Operators, Representatives of Togo flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Masters, Flag and Port State control Surveyors and Recognized Organizations.

Scope: The purpose of this "Merchant Marine Circular" is to inform all interested parties on amendments to SOLAS regulations III/3 and III/20 by making mandatory the requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul, and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear. Additionally, to introduce the requirements of the International Ship Registry of Togo for issuing and maintaining authorization to service providers.

References:

- a. Resolutions MSC.402(96) of 19 May 2016 and MSC.404(96)
- b. Circular MSC.1/Circ.1578 - Guidelines on Safety during Abandon Ship Drills using lifeboats
- c. MSC.1/Circ.1206 Rev.1 - Measures to Prevent Accidents with Lifeboats, excepting her annexes

Applicability: The Notice applies to all commercial vessels registered in International Ship Registry of Togo.

1. A set of important amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and various codes mandatory under the Convention entered into force on 1 January 2020, including amendments to SOLAS regulations III/3 and III/20, making mandatory the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.
2. Considering the issuance of the IMO Resolutions MSC. 404(96) of 19 May 2016, amendments to regulations III/3 "Definitions" and III/20 "Operational readiness, maintenance, and inspections" to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and Resolution MSC.402 (96) of 19 May 2016 "Requirements for Maintenance, thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of



Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear" that have taken effect on the 1st of January 2020, the Maritime Administration of Togo subsequently adapt them as per their content.

3. This package of provisions aims to prevent accidents with survival craft and addresses longstanding issues such as the need for a uniform, safe and documented standard related to the servicing of these appliances, as well as the authorization, qualification and certification requirements to ensure that a reliable service is provided. The intention is to ensure that seafarers are confident that they can fully rely on the survival craft at their disposal, which should comply with applicable SOLAS requirements.
4. The SOLAS amendments and associated MSC Resolution (MSC .402(96)) include explicit mandatory text clarifying the requirements for the qualification, authorization and certification of service suppliers, procedures for maintenance as well as testing, and what should be carried out at each stage of testing (weekly, monthly, annually, and 5-yearly).
5. **As of 1st January 2020** the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear should be carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 by **service providers authorized in accordance with section 7 of MSC.402(96).**
6. ***The International Ship Registry of Togo accepts for a transitional period up to 31.12.2020 the service providers authorized by other SOLAS Contracting Governments or their Recognized Organizations, recognized also by the Maritime Administration of Togo or IACS Members, as per. Part 7 to the Annex of Resolution MSC.402(96).***
7. The International Ship Registry of Togo will provide in due time, additional guidance in relation to the requirements for issuing and maintaining authorization to service providers for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, as required by Regulation 20 of Chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS Chapter III), following the adoption of Resolution MSC.402(96) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
8. Shipowners / Managers / Operators and interested service providers are recommended to consult their Recognized Organizations as appropriate for the effective implementation of the new requirements.
9. In particular, Shipowners / Managers / Operators, in order to prepare for the new requirement, are advised to approach service suppliers to ensure they are approved for the servicing of the model of life-saving equipment installed on board and they comply with the new requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing,



overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, by obtaining relevant certificates proving so.

10. Whenever work required by an authorized service provider is carried out, Shipowners / Managers / Operators are advised to ensure the following is received: Service report and a statement confirming the equipment is fit for purpose, Personnel certificate and the Authorised Service Provider Certificate proving compliance with the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96). The documentation should be kept on board.

Encl.:

- a. MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1
- b. MSC.402(96)
- c. MSC.404(96)

For the International Ship Registry of Togo
For the Togolese Maritime Authority

Vera N. Medawar
Ship Registrar



For the Togolese Maritime Authority

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