



MGN 555 (M) Amendment 1

Life-Saving Appliances; Lifeboats, Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear - Authorisation of Service Providers

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crew of Merchant Ships, Authorised Service Personnel and Recognised Organisations.

This Note replaces MGN 555 (M) - Life Saving Appliances; Lifeboats, Rigid Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and On-Load Release Gear - Authorisation of Service Providers

Summary

This Marine Guidance Note (MGN), as amended, replaces MGN 555 (M) and provides updated guidance on the authorisation of service providers to work on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear on-board UK ships, following the adoption of Resolution MSC.402(96) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Service providers other than the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and OEM approved service providers, carrying out the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear shall be authorised to do so by a UK authorised Recognised Organisation (RO).

This MGN should be read in conjunction with MGN 560 Amendment 1 (M) and IMO Resolutions MSC.402(96) and MSC.404(96).

1. Background

- 1.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) no longer approves individual service providers wishing to conduct statutory work on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear on-board UK ships. The UK no longer, therefore, has any Independent Lifeboat Service and Testing Organisations' (ILSTO). Instead, the MCA accepts service providers authorised by the OEM or one of the UK authorised ROs listed in MSN 1672.
- 1.2 To maintain the validity of applicable international certification on UK ships, all thorough examinations, operational testing, repair and overhaul work undertaken on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear should be conducted in accordance with



SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.402(96). This MGN does not alter that requirement in any way.

1.3 The IMO has reviewed the process of authorisation of service providers as outlined in SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 to make clearer the responsibilities of relevant personnel at each stage of the life of equipment. The MCA requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear can be found in MGN 560 Amendment 1 and guidance on authorisation of service providers can be found in this MGN.

2. OEM and OEM Approved Service Providers

2.1 The OEM and OEM approved service providers do not require any further approval to conduct work on equipment manufactured by that OEM. Any service provider wishing to conduct service work on equipment other than that of the authorising OEM should seek authorisation from a UK authorised RO or approval from the actual OEM, for the specific equipment on which they wish to undertake work, before commencing such work.

3. Authorisation of Service Providers by Recognised Organisations

3.1 Service providers (other than OEM and OEM approved service providers) wishing to conduct work on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear fitted to UK ships, should approach a UK authorised RO and seek their authorisation as a service provider for the specific equipment on which they wish to undertake work, in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20, as applicable and MSC.402(96).

3.2 Authorisations issued for work in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.402(96) may not give automatic authority to conduct work on every type of equipment in accordance with these IMO instruments. It may be necessary for service providers to seek authorisation for each specific make and type of equipment on which they wish to undertake work.

3.3 Other than OEM and OEM approved service providers, only service providers authorised by a UK authorised RO through an assessment against the provisions of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Z17 "*Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers*" and IMO MSC.402(96) will be accepted.

3.4 Any service provider found not to be meeting these requirements will be reported to the authorising RO and the MCA may advise that the service provider will not be accepted for work on UK ships.

4. Action by Ship Operators

4.1 Ship operators should ensure that the service providers conducting work on their ships in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.402(96) are authorised by either the OEM, or a UK authorised RO in accordance with 3.1.

5. Reporting of Concern

5.1 Any concerns about the activities of service providers conducting work in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.402(96) should be addressed in the first instance to the authorising body (OEM or UK authorised RO) but if this does not resolve the concern then such cases should be reported to the MCA Ship Standards Team.



More Information

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