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THÔNG BÁO KỸ THUẬT - TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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Subject: Provision of immersion suits in accordance with Regulation III/32.3 of SOLAS 74 for Vietnamese cargo ships engaged on international voyages.

To whom it may concern

At the session 78 (from 12 May to 21 May 2004), the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization adopted the Resolution MSC.152(78) which makes amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 as amended. These amendments shall be deemed accepted on 01 January 2006 and shall enter into force on 01 July 2006. The Regulation 32.3, Chapter III - SOLAS 74 as amended, for provision of immersion suits has been completely revised as follows:

"Regulation 32. Personal life-saving appliances

The existing text of paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

3 Immersion suits

- 3.1 This paragraph applies to all cargo ships. However, with respect to cargo ships constructed before 1 July 2006, paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 shall be complied with not later than the first safety equipment survey on or after 1 July 2006.
- 3.2 An immersion suit complying with the requirements of section 2.3 of the Code* shall be provided for every person on board the ship. However, for ships other than bulk carriers, as defined in regulation IX/1, these immersion suits need not be required if the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates where, in the opinion of the Administration, immersion suits are unnecessary.
- 3.3 If a ship has any watch or work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed, additional immersion suits shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally on watch or working at those locations at any time.

- 3.4 *Immersion suits shall be so placed as to be readily accessible and their position shall be plainly indicated.*
- 3.5 *The immersion suits required by this regulation may be used to comply with the requirements of regulation 7.3.*

*Code means the LSA Code

With reference to the above amendments, please be informed of the application of these amendments as follows:

1/ Application:

- i New ships (which have keel laid on or after 01 July 2006): to be complied at the delivery of the ship.
- ii Existing ships (which have keel laid before 01 July 2006): to be complied at the first survey of Safety Equipment (annual, periodical or renewal survey) on or after 01 July 2006.

2/ Exemption:

A ship other than a bulk carrier, as defined in regulation 1/Ch IX/SOLAS 1974, as amended, which is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates of the sector of the globe between latitude 25 degrees North and 25 degrees South, may be exempted from the above requirement, provided that the exemption is subject to official approval of VR Head Office for each specific case.

3/ *Workstation* is any place of the ship where the crew is occupied performing its normal duties except watch-keeping duties. *Remotely located workstations* are those located more than 100 metres, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed. If the vessel has such *remotely located workstations*, additional immersion suits shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally working at those locations (one immersion suit for each person)

4/ *Watch station* is any place of the ship where the crew performs its normal watch-keeping duties (wheel-house, engine control room, ...). *Remotely located watch stations* are those located more than 50 metres, measured horizontally, from the place where the immersion suits are stowed. If the vessel has such *remotely located workstations*, additional immersion suits shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally working at those locations (one immersion suit for each person).

5/ According to Regulation 7.3; Chapter III, SOLAS 74, as amended, an immersion suit shall be provided for every person assigned to crew the rescue boat. (normally 3 immersion suits for each rescue boat). The immersion suits provided as per Regulation 32.3 are also considered to be complied with Regulation 7.3.

6/ A ship shall continue to carry the number of life jackets required by regulation 7.2, Chapter III, SOLAS 1974, as amended, even if its immersion suits are classified as lifejackets.

7/ Inspection and service of the immersion suits:

.i Monthly inspection of the immersion suits shall be carried out by crew members according to Regulation 20.7, Chapter III, SOLAS 1974, as amended and the Circular MSC/Circ.1047 (see the attached).

.ii The immersion suits shall be serviced and tested periodically with interval not exceeded 3 years according to Circular MSC/Circ.1114 (see the attached).

8/ At the first SE survey on or after 01 July 2006, the surveyor shall verify the immersion suits provided on board ship in compliance with the Regulation 32.3 and entry the number of immersion suits on Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (form E).

9/ This Technical Information must be placed on board ships flying Vietnamese flag.

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