EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAS REGULATION XI-1/7
ON ATMOSPHERE TESTING INSTRUMENT FOR ENCLOSED SPACES

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-third session (14 to 23 May 2014), when approving the draft new SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 "Atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces", recalled that MSC 92 had adopted, by resolution MSC.350(92), SOLAS regulation III/19 "Emergency training and drills" with an entry-into-force date of 1 January 2015, requiring that each enclosed space entry and rescue drill shall include checking and use of instruments for measuring the atmosphere in enclosed spaces.

2 MSC 93, having confirmed that paragraph 3.6.2.3 of SOLAS regulation III/19 does not introduce carriage requirements for atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces, recognized the need to implement the draft new SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 early, in order to expedite the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces.

3 Consequently, the Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fourth session (17 to 21 November 2014), in adopting resolution MSC.380(94) on Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, invited SOLAS Contracting Governments to voluntarily implement SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, as set out below, to ships entitled to fly their flags, as soon as practicable, taking into account that the entry-into-force date of the corresponding amendments to SOLAS is 1 July 2016:

"Regulation 7 - Atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces

Every ship to which chapter I applies shall carry an appropriate portable atmosphere testing instrument or instruments*. As a minimum, these shall be capable of measuring concentrations of oxygen, flammable gases or vapours, hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide prior to entry into enclosed spaces**. Instruments carried under other requirements may satisfy this regulation. Suitable means shall be provided for the calibration of all such instruments.

* Refer to the Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 (MSC.1/Circ.1477).

** Refer to the Revised recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships (resolution A.1050(27))."

4 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.