



Merchant Marine Notice MMN-20-001

To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/
SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

Reference: Requirements for Approval of Service Providers for Maintenance, Thorough Examination,
Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching
Appliances and Release Gear.

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1. PURPOSE

1.1. This Merchant Marine Notice is intended to provide all Shipowners/Operators, Company ISM managers and other parties with our procedures for approval of an Organization other than the manufacturer concerning the Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear as required by the Maritime Safety Committee in its Resolution MSC.402(96) adopted on 19 May 2019 and which **entered into force on 1st January 2020**.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. SOLAS Reg. III/20.3.1 « maintenance, testing and inspections of life-saving appliances shall be carried out based on the guidelines adopted by the Organization in MSC/Circ.1093, subsequently superseded by MSC.1/Circ.1206 dated May 26, 2006» was amended by Resolution MSC.404(96) to state that maintenance, testing and inspections of life-saving appliances shall be carried out in a manner having due regard to ensuring reliability of such appliances.

2.2. These guidelines relate to the application of the ISM-Code to periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats arrangements, their launching appliances and release gear.



2.3. SOLAS Reg. III/20.11 «launching appliances to be subjected to a thorough examination and dynamic tests at the annual surveys required for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate and the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate» was also amended to require Maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.

2.4. Under these requirements, any inspections, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair shall be carried out according to the maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation developed **by the manufacturer**.

2.5. In cases where a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, in accordance with paragraph 7.3 in Annex 1 of the Resolution MSC 402(96), this Administration may authorize service providers for the equipment on the basis of prior authorization for the equipment and/or long-term experiences and demonstrated expertise as an authorized service provided.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. **Authorized Service Provider** means an entity authorized by this Administration in accordance with section 3 and section 7 of the Resolution 402(96).

3.2. **Manufacturer** means the original equipment manufacturer or any entity which has taken legal and legitimate responsibilities for equipment when the original equipment manufacturer no longer exists or supports the equipment.

4. APPLICATION

4.1. The amendments contained in Resolution MSC 404(96) are applicable to all SOLAS vessels.

5. QUALIFICATIONS LEVELS AND CERTIFICATION

5.1. Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s), shall be conducted by authorized service providers, or by shipboard personnel under the direction of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s).



5.2. Annual thorough examinations and operational tests, as described in section 6.2, shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider in accordance with section 7 and section 8. The service provider may be the ship operator provided that it is authorized in accordance with section 3 and section 7.

5.3. Five-year thorough examination, any overhaul, overload operational tests, as described in section 6.3 and repair shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider in accordance with section 7 and section 8.

Note: Above mentioned sections are in accordance with the Resolution MSC 402(96).

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

6.1. The Administration may authorize Service Providers to carry out the inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear provided that the Service Provider demonstrate the following:

6.1.1. Employment and documentation of personnel certified in accordance with a recognized national, international or industry standards as applicable, or a manufacturer's established certification programme. In either case, the certification programme shall comply with section 8 of the Resolution MSC 402(96) for each make and type of equipment for which service is to be provided;

6.1.2. Availability of sufficient tools, and in particular any specialized tools specific in the manufacturer's instruction, including portable tools as needed for work to be carried out on board ships;

6.1.3. Access to appropriate parts and accessories as specified for maintenance and repair;

6.1.4. Availability of the manufacturer's instructions for repair work involving disassembly or adjustment of on-load mechanisms and davit winches;



6.1.5. A documented and certified quality system, which covers at least the following:

6.1.5.1. Code of conduct for personnel involved in the relevant activity;

6.1.5.2. Maintenance and calibration of measuring tools and gauges;

6.1.5.3. Training programmes for personnel;

6.1.5.4. Supervision and verification to ensure compliance with operational procedures;

6.1.5.5. Recording and reporting of information;

6.1.5.6. Quality management of subsidiaries and agents;

6.1.5.7. Job preparation; and

6.1.5.8. Periodic review of work process procedures, complaints, corrective actions and issuance, maintenance and control of documents. The Organization has documented procedures and instructions for carrying out the testing and examination of life-saving and launching appliances and on-load releasing gear. Such procedures and instructions should ensure that the level of performance tests is in compliance with the relevant technical standards of the manufacturer.

6.1.6. In lieu of the above, this Administration may accept or recognize service providers on case by case basis if the service provider is approved by the attending Recognized Organization or by a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

7. STATEMENT OF EXTENSION

7.1. In the event that the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboat and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear cannot be conducted along with the annual survey for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate/Passenger Ship Safety Certificate within the window period (+/-3 months) due to exceptional circumstances, a **Statement of Extension** needs to be requested from the Administration.



7.2. The issuance of Statement of Extension shall be determined in coordination with the Recognized Organization which may require additional requirements.

7.3. The Statement of Extension shall be requested through the vessel's Designated Office at an established fee for Technical Certificates.

8. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SERVICE PROVIDER

8.1. Upon completion of the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboat and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear a **Certificate of Inspection** or similar should be issued valid until the last date of the window period (+/-3 months) of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate/ Passenger Ship Safety Certificate.

8.2. A copy of the Certificate of Inspection or similar should be submitted to the Administration.

9. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION

9.1. The maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboat and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear should be done in the presence of the ship's Recognized Organization's surveyor who shall verify on behalf of IMMARBELIZE that the servicing and inspection provided by the Service Provider is carried out in accordance with the Resolution MSC 406(96).

9.2. The Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate/Passenger Ship Safety Certificate will be endorsed **only** once the Recognized Organization has been satisfied that the servicing and inspection has been carried out in accordance with the Resolution MSC 406(96).

10. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER OR ISM OPERATOR

10.1. The Owner or ISM Operator is responsible for the development of the procedures covering all activities during the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboat and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.

10.2. The Owner or ISM Operator shall ensure that the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboat and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear referred to in the Resolution MSC 406(96) are completed at the date of the survey (Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate/Passenger Ship Safety Certificate).



10.3. The Owner or ISM Operator shall ensure that the requirements stated on directive 6 of this MMN are submitted in a timely manner.

10.4. The Owner or ISM Operator is responsible to locate the **manufacturer** of the life-saving and launching appliances and release gear on board.

10.5. The Owner or ISM Operator is responsible for covering the costs related to the issuance and delivery of the Statement of Extension.

This Merchant Marine Notice is to be brought to the attention of Owners/ISM Operators, Masters and Recognized Organizations and be implemented forthwith.

Look forward for your cooperation and assistance.

The Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize 17/01/2020

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