

Subject

Emergency Training and Drills – Launching of Lifeboats  
– for Cyprus Ships

# **ClassNK**

## ***Technical Information***

No. TEC-0641  
Date 9 November 2005

To whom it may concern

The Cyprus Government has issued Circular No. 31/2005 on 18 October 2005, which gives advices and instructions on the subject above. Please refer to the original copy of the Cyprus Circular attached and for further details refer to the ClassNK's Web Site (<http://www.classnk.or.jp>), ClassNK ISM, Special requirements of the Cyprus.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment:

1. Circular No. 31/2005 “Emergency Training and Drills – Launching of Lifeboats”

NOTES:

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**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING  
LEMESOS**

18 October 2005

Circular No 31 / 2005

TEN 5.13.09  
TEN 4.28.03.5  
TEN 16.17.18

To all Owners, Managers and Representatives  
of ships under the Cyprus Flag.

To all recognised Classification Societies and Inspectors of Cyprus Ships

**Subject: Emergency Training and Drills – Launching of Lifeboats**

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization on 20 May 2004 adopted, by Resolution MSC.152 (78) amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended. These amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2006 if no objection is raised by Contracting Governments to SOLAS 1974, as amended, in accordance with article VIII (b)(vi)(2)(bb) and enter into force on 1 July 2006.

1. With reference to the above amendments, paragraph 3.3.3 of regulation 19/Ch III/SOLAS 1974, as amended, has been modified to allow the lifeboats to be launched without its assigned operating crew aboard.
2. MSC on 15 December 2004 issued the attached circular MSC/Circ. 1127, advising the Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention to implement the said amendment prior its scheduled date of entry into force.
3. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, in accordance with MSC/Circ. 1127, consents to the immediate application of the said amendment.
4. The free-fall launching of free-fall lifeboats is an unnecessary risk and a psychological burden for the crew. Other means exist to achieve the same level of emergency training and to ensure that free-fall lifeboat's release mechanism operates satisfactorily and the free-fall lifeboat will be successfully launched in a real situation.

5. As from 1 October 2005, the abandon ship drills on ships equipped with a free-fall lifeboat, which together with its launching appliance are designed to accommodate simulated launching, may be carried out as follows:
  - i. A simulated launching, in accordance with the attached Guidelines approved by MSC on 15 December 2004 (MSC/Circ.1137) shall be carried as a part of the provisions of paragraph 3.3.1 of regulation 19/Ch III/SOLAS 1974, as amended.
  - ii. Every three months, a lifeboat arranged for free-fall launching shall be lowered into the water and manoeuvred by its assigned operating crew.
6. The free-fall launching required by paragraph 3.3.4 of regulation 19/Ch III/SOLAS 1974, as amended, may be dispensed with if ship's drills are carried out in accordance with 5 (i) and 5 (ii).
7. MSC/Circ.1136 approved by MSC on 15 December 2004 is hereby brought to your attention as a general guidance on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats.
8. **This Circular must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.**

S. S. Serghiou  
Director  
Department Of Merchant Shipping

CC: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works  
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic  
Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic  
Cyprus Shipping Council  
Cyprus Union of Shipowners  
PEO Trade Union  
SEK Trade Union  
Cyprus Bar Association  
International Maritime Organization  
Paris M.O.U.  
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