

Subject

Lifeboat Air Support Systems for Liberian Flag Ships

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0703
Date 3 July 2007

To whom it may concern

The Liberian Government has notified the following instructions regarding the maintenance of lifeboat air support systems by Marine Notice SAF-001(Rev.04/05):

1. Periodic Inspections

In accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines the air support system shall be subject to periodic inspection carried out by the vessel's crew on a monthly basis as required by SOLAS 2004 Edition, as amended, Regulation 20.7.

2. Annual Examinations

All lifeboat air support systems and bottles shall be examined at least annually by the attending class society surveyor as part of the annual statutory survey for the Safety Equipment Certificate or MODU Code certificate.

3. Recharging

If the air pressure in the bottles should fall below ten percent (10%) of the normal full level air pressure, then the air bottles should be recharged in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines. The air bottle can only be recharged on board from an air compressor that has been certified for providing air that is fit for human consumption. If applicable, the on board air supply air recharging systems should be checked for air quality as part of the annual statutory for the Safety Equipment Certificate or MODU Code certificate. If the ship is not equipped with such an air compressor then the bottle must be sent ashore to an authorized service facility for recharging or exchange.

4. Hydrostatic testing

Hydrostatic testing of lifeboat air support bottles shall be carried out once every five years or in accordance with the recommendations of the bottle manufacturer whichever is due the earliest. The air support bottles shall also be hydrostatically tested prior to refilling a bottle that has been discharged. The hydrostatic test date must be permanently marked on the bottles or, if the bottles are made of a material that cannot be stamped with date, a tag indicating the hydrostatic test date should be securely attached to the bottles. Intervals for hydrostatically testing cylinders of the ultra lightweight type may vary and will depend upon the requirements of the cylinder manufacturer and

(To be continued)

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the vessels classification society. Servicing of the cylinders must be performed to the satisfaction of the classification society surveyor.

5. Gauges

The accuracy of the primary pressure gauge and secondary air pressure gauge shall be verified at least once every five years or in accordance with the recommendations of the bottle manufacturers whichever comes first. Verification of the gauges must be performed to the satisfaction of the classification society surveyor.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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