

Subject

Information for Life-saving appliances (Lifebuoy, Thermal Protective Aid) from the U.K. Government

# **ClassNK**

## **Technical Information**

No. TEC-0833  
Date 18 November 2010

To whom it may concern

The U.K. Government has noticed ClassNK of the following information (SAFETY ALERT-TECHNICAL No.32, No.33 and No.34) for the Life-saving appliances (Lifebuoy, Thermal Protective Aid). Please refer to the attached documents.

1. Recommendation of confirming safety condition for Lifebuoy (Eval ,Type 558, manufactured by E.G Vallianatos S.P.A., Athens in November 2004)
2. Calling for attention for Thermal Protective Aid (Type MF206B, manufactured by BCB International Ltd)
3. Information of above 1 from the U.K. Government with the manufacturer's instruction.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment:

1. SAFETY ALERT-TECHNICAL No.32
2. SAFETY ALERT-TECHNICAL No.33
3. SAFETY ALERT-TECHNICAL No.34 and the Manufacturer's instruction (Ref.:8016/A)

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# **SAFETY ALERT**

## **- TECHNICAL No. 32**

### **LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES** **SAFETY of LIFEBUOYS**

#### **Information about Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558**

It has been brought to the attention of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that there could be a potential problem with Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558, manufactured by E.G Vallianatos S.P.A., Athens. During an inspection on board a German vessel by the market surveillance authority the above mentioned lifebuoy was found with a clearly noticeable clattering sound. According to the information provided after cutting the lifebuoy it turned out that nearly one half was not filled with foam as required. In addition some sand-like material was found.

The subject Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558, was issued with the following:

- EC Type Approval Certificate (Module B), by Lloyd's Register on 21 April 2004, Certificate No. MED 0250047/M1;
- Certificate of Conformity (Module F), by Lloyd's Register on 9 December 2004, Certificate No. 0430271-B, for lot 11/04.

Please note that the year of marking is 2004.

Taking the above into account you are requested to take the necessary measures to ensure that the lifebuoys placed on board ships and market are safe and conform to the requirements of the Marine Equipment Directive (96/98/EC) and inform MCA about these or similar cases. The lifebuoy should weigh 2.5kg or more.

It also should be mentioned that lifebuoys in general should be subjected to regular inspection and maintenance in order to determine that the intended function remains intact.



# **SAFETY ALERT**

## **- TECHNICAL No. 33**

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### **LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES**

#### **Thermal Protective Aid**

### **Information about Thermal Protective Aid Type MF206B**

It has been brought to the attention of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that Thermal Protective Aid, Type MF 206B, manufactured by BCB International Ltd has been placed on the market with incomplete Wheelmark – without Notified Body number and year.

The MCA has confirmed with the Notified Body which issued Thermal Protective Aid, Type MF 206B, with its Module B certification that the manufacturer did not undertake the quality assurance module, contrary to the intent of the Council Directive 96/98/EC on marine equipment (MED).

MCA has requested clarification from the manufacturer who confirmed this product was erroneously placed on the market. The manufacturer has already contacted its customers informing them of the situation and is in the process of recalling the product from the market.

Taking the above into account you are requested to contact BCB International Ltd if you are in possession of the subject Thermal Protective Aid.



# **SAFETY ALERT**

## **- TECHNICAL No. 34**

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### **LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES** **SAFETY of LIFEBOUYS**

## **Information from manufacturer of Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558**

To be read in conjunction with the Safety Alert No 32.

The manufacturer of the Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558 has contacted Maritime and Coastguard Agency with request to download the attached letter.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency strongly recommends that owners and operators who have Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558 onboard their vessels and others who may own, sell etc. carefully follow the instructions provided.

It also should be noted that both Safety Alerts refers only to Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558 with year of marking 2004, for which following certificates were issued:

- EC Type Approval Certificate (Module B), by Lloyd's Register on 21 April 2004, Certificate No. MED 0250047/M1;
- Certificate of Conformity (Module F), by Lloyd's Register on 9 December 2004, Certificate No. 0430271-B, for lot 11/04



To: Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Our ref. : 8016/A

Athens 14 September 2010

Subject: Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558

To whom it may concern

EVAL S.A. would like to felicitate your concern regarding safety at sea, and we address to you in reference to the Safety Alert Technical 32 (Rev. 01/10 - issued on 5/8/10), found on MCA webpage, concerning the lifebuoy code 558.

The problem you are referring to has been met to one Eval lifebuoy code 558 with production lot 11/04 (manufactured in November of 2004).

Owners of Eval lifebuoys of the same code can perform the following test to evaluate the safety capability of the lifebuoys according to the resolution MSC.81(70):

1. Attach a 14,5 kg load made out of steel, centrally below the lifebuoy using some additional ropes or on a wooden block placed on the upper surface of the lifebuoy.
2. Place the lifebuoy together with the attached load inside a tank filled with water.
3. Leave the lifebuoy in the tank for 24h.
4. Inspect the lifebuoy's buoyancy capability.

If the lifebuoy still floats on the surface of the water after 24h, the lifebuoy is completely safe as far as the buoyancy is concerned. If the lifebuoy cannot float, it has to be eliminated from the safety equipment of the ship.

Eval manufactures safety equipment for about 30 years and during this period we did not have a single claim regarding buoyancy problems in our lifebuoys.

Eval will certainly take the responsibility of any problem that will be met in lifebuoys code 558 and will proceed to replacements of any possibly found defective product, as far as the buoyancy capability and any other quality problems are concerned.

Yours sincerely

Mr. E.G. Vallianatos

Managing Director

EVAL S.A.

