

NT BRANCH CIRCULAR NO. NT/LSA/03/05

No.14-NT(7)/2003

Date :6th December, 2006

Subject: Amendment to the International Convention for Safety of Life of Sea (SOLAS)

1. The Maritime Safety Committee during its 78 Session had adopted the resolution 152 on 28th May 2004 and has there by invited the contracting Governments to note the said amendments that shall enter into force on 1st July 2006 in accordance with the relevant articles of the said Convention.

2. Keeping in view the aforesaid amendment Ship Master / Ship Owners / Ship Managers/ Ship Operators and all concerned are hereby informed that Regulation 32 of chapter III of the SOLAS (1974) is amended and replaced by the following text. Appropriate action to be initiated to give full & complete effect to the amendment.

Regulation 32: The existing text of Para 3 is replaced as following:

3. "Immersion Suits"

1.1 This paragraph applies to all cargo ships. However, with respect to cargo ships constructed before 1st July 2006, paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 shall be complied with not later than the first safety equipment survey on or after 1st July 2006.

1.2 An immersion suit complying with the requirements of section 2.3 of the Code shall be provided for every person on board the ship. However, for ships other than bulk carriers, as defined in regulation IX/1, these immersion suits need not be required if the ships is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates where, in the opinion of the Administration, immersion suits are unnecessary.

1.3 If a ship has any watch or work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed, additional immersion suits shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally on watch or working at those locations at any time.

1.4 Immersion suits shall be so placed as to be readily accessible and their position shall be plainly indicated.

1.5 The immersion suits required by this regulation may be used to comply with the requirements of regulation 7.3".

3. The placement of Immersion Suit as required by Reg.32.3.2 of Chapter-III SOLAS shall not be construed as an alternative to the requirement of Life Jacket (Reg. 32.2.Chapter-II SOLAS) even though the immersion suit may fulfill the requirements of Section 2.2 of the Chapter-II of the LSA Code.

Sd/-

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