



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF SHIPPING

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE 01 OF 2020

F.No: ENG/MMAM-37(03)/2019

Date: 6th January, 2020

Subject: Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of life boats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear for lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched life rafts.

A. BACK GROUND:

- 1) Recalling the measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1) and the interim recommendation on conditions for authorization of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear (MSC.1/Circ. 1277)
- 2) Recognizing the need to establish a uniform, safe and documented standard for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear, the 96th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted amendments to SOLAS Regulations III/3 (Definitions)& III/20 (operational readiness, maintenance and inspections) and also adopted requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear vide Resolution MSC 404 (96) and MSC 402(96), respectively.
- 3) The amendments to the international convention for the safety of life at sea, 1974, as amended by Resolution MSC 404 (96) prescribes the mandatory requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear for all ships and the requirements stipulated in IMO Resolutions MSC 402(96) regarding requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliance and release gear requirements will take effect on 1st January, 2020 upon entry into force of the associated amendments to regulations III/3 and III/20 of the SOLAS Convention.

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4) From 1st January 2020, personnel carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of the following items shall be certified by the manufacturer or authorized service provider for each make and type of the equipment to be worked on in accordance with manufacturer's established certification programme and the provisions of section 8 of Resolution MSC402 (96).

i) Lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats including fast rescue boats.

ii) Launching appliances (Winches, davits etc.) as well as on-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched life rafts.

B. PURPOSE:

1) The Directorate vide Merchant Shipping Notice 13 of 2016 has allowed DGS approved service providers not having an approval from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) to carry out periodic servicing of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear of survival craft and rescue boats, when such servicing was verified by surveyors from National Maritime Administration or surveyors from Recognized Organization.

2) Resolution MSC.402(96) emphasizes the need to establish a uniform, safe and documented standard for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear.

3) Accordingly, a meeting with stake-holders (Approved Service Providers, Shipping Companies, Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association, Indian National Ship Owner Association, Manufacturers and Recognized organizations) was convened at the Directorate General of Shipping on 02.08.2019 under the chairmanship of the Director General of Shipping and Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of India. It was decided in the meeting that the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear need to be streamlined to meet the mandatory requirements of IMO Resolution MSC 402(96) which is coming into force i.e. 1st January 2020.

4) The purpose of this circular, accordingly, is to provide mandatory requirements for authorization of service provider intending to carry out "maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear" as required by Regulation 20.11 of Chapter 3 of SOLAS 74 as amended read with IMO Resolution MSC 402(96).

- 5) Following circulars concerning approval of service providers are hereby superseded:
- Engineering Circular No. 122-A dated 19.02.11 on 'Addendum to Engineering Circular No. 122.
 - Engineering Circular No. 122 B dated 22.04.13 on Addendum to Engineering Circular No. 122.
 - Engineering Circular No. 3 of 2014 dated 09.04.14 on 'servicing of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear.
- 6) The Merchant Shipping Notice No. 13 of 2016 dated 25.11.16 dealing with Servicing of life saving appliances, launching appliances and on-load release gears etc., is hereby partially superseded to the extent that maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of life boats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear for lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched life rafts shall be governed by this Circular and not by MS Notice 13 of 2016. Henceforth, the requirements stipulated in Merchant Shipping Notice No. 13 of 2016 dated 25.11.16 shall only be applicable for servicing of life rafts alone till such time a separate circular / MS Notice is issued for servicing of life rafts.

C. APPLICATION:

The requirements of this circular shall be applicable to:

- Service providers intending to carry out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear fitted on lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched life rafts for vessels in Indian waters.
- Ship Owners/Operators of Indian flag ships registered under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 as amended.
- Surveyors of the National Maritime Administration or Surveyors of the Recognized Organization carrying out initial / periodic / renewal audit of service providers carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear fitted on lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched life rafts.

D. AUTHORIZATION

- Resolution MSC 402(96) requires Administrations to issue the authorization document to all service providers. Therefore, all Safety equipment service stations undertaking servicing of life boats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear for lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched life rafts, in India must be registered with the Directorate General of Shipping.

- 2) Thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of equipment shall be carried out in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC 402(96) and Regulation 20 of Chapter III of SOLAS by service providers authorized by Directorate General of Shipping.
- 3) The requirement of authorization by Directorate General of Shipping shall equally apply to manufacturers also, when they are acting as service providers.
- 4) An authorized service provider is an entity authorized by the Directorate General of Shipping in accordance with the requirements given in section 3 and 7 of Resolution MSC.402 (96). The personnel undertaking the servicing/repair shall be certified by the manufacturer or authorized service provider for each make and type of equipment in accordance with manufacturer's established certification programme as governed by Section 7 and section 8 of Resolution MSC.402 (96).

It is to note that the authorization as service provider equally applies to manufacturers when they are acting as service providers. In other words, a service branch of a manufacturer also needs to obtain authorization.

Authorized service provider of the Directorate other than the manufacturer can only undertake training, competency assessment and certification of personnel when they have been exclusively granted such approval by the manufacturer under their established training programme / supervision and authorized service providers are required to submit a copy of such manufacturer's approval.

5) Qualification Levels and Certification:

- i) 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).
- ii) Annual thorough examinations and operational tests, as described in section 6.2 of Resolution MSC 402(96) shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider in accordance with section 7 and section 8 of Resolution MSC 402(96).
- iii) Five-year thorough examination, any overhaul, overload operational tests, as described in section 6.3 of Resolution MSC 402(96), 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 of said Resolution.