



## TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 096 of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

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To: All Surveyors/Auditor

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Applicable to flag: All Flags

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Subject: **Periodic servicing of free-fall lifeboat release systems**

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Reference: **SOLAS - Amendment to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.2**

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**Conarina has a statutory alert regarding periodic servicing of free-fall lifeboat release systems in accordance with amendment to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.2**

**Lifeboats should be tested regularly to ensure they operate when needed and that crews know how to operate them. For testing of free-fall lifeboats a physical launch is not always appropriate, and there is an element of risk to crews.**

**An amendment to SOLAS chapter III, regulation 20.11.2.4 which will enter into force on 1 January, 2014, will permit operational testing of free-fall lifeboats to be performed either by free-fall launch, with only the operating crew on board, or by a simulated launch in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1.**

**The IMO has issued circular [MSC.1/Circ.1411](#) to encourage all parties concerned to implement the amendment at the earliest opportunity.**

**In the interests of safety, shipowners and managers with responsibility for ships which have free-fall lifeboats are encouraged to take note of the circular and act accordingly.**



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**REFERENCES:**

**Amendment to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.2**

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