



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 166 of 30th December 2013

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Passenger ships – Operational information
Reference	SOLAS Regulation II-1/8-1 for passenger ships

Operational information required re safe return to port

New SOLAS Regulation II-1/8-1 for passenger ships

SOLAS Regulation II-1/8-1 has been amended and will require operational information to be provided to the master after a flooding casualty to assist with decisions regarding safe return to port. The new requirement applies to passenger vessels over 120m in length or with three or more main vertical zones, constructed on or after 1 January, 2014.

The operational information can be provided by onboard stability computers or through shore-based support arrangements, as follows.

Onboard stability computers

If the ship is complying with the regulation using onboard stability computers, the following requirements apply:

- At least two independent stability computers capable of processing the data and providing the necessary information should be installed on board.
- The computers must be approved in accordance with the guidelines contained in circular MSC.1/Circ.1400 and their output should be within the tolerances specified in the Guidelines for the Approval of Stability Instruments (MSC. 1/Circ. 1229).
- The computers should have an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) connected to both main and emergency switchboards.
- At least two crew members should be competent in operating the computers and capable of interpreting the output in order to provide the required information.

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Amendments to the IACS Unified Requirement UR L5, to incorporate minimum requirements for onboard stability computer safe return to port calculations, are under consideration. Minimum survivability standards may be left to the discretion of the ship's flag administration. The procedure for loading computer approvals will be reviewed once the revised UR L5 has been issued.

Shore-based support

As an alternative to onboard stability computers, shipowners can arrange shore-based support which provides prompt access to computerized damage stability and residual structural strength calculation programs.

REFERENCES:

- **SOLAS Reg. II-1/8-1 FOR PASSENGER SHIPS**

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,

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