



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 208 of 20th July 2014

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	SOLAS Amendments 1st July 2014
Reference:	SOLAS, IMO

SOLAS amendments entered into force effective from 1st July 2014

A review of all SOLAS amendments entering into force on July 1st, 2014 is as follows:

Recovery of persons from the water

This new requirement is intended to enhance safety at sea and also to provide support to search and rescue coordinators in all types of rescue operations and, particularly, in those situations where there is insufficient dedicated search and rescue capacity or access to helicopters and specialized rescue craft is limited. The ship's plans and procedures should take into account related Guidelines for the development of plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water (MSC.1/Circ.1447).

Ships constructed before 1 July 2014 are required to comply with the requirement by the first periodical or renewal safety equipment survey of the ship to be carried out after 1 July 2014, whichever comes first.

Reducing on-board noise

Also entering into force on 1 July 2014 is the new SOLAS regulation II-1/3-12, which requires new ships to be constructed to reduce on-board noise and to protect personnel from noise, in accordance with the revised Code on noise levels on board ships, which sets out mandatory maximum noise level limits for machinery spaces, control rooms, workshops, accommodation and other spaces on board ships.

Fire-fighter communication on-board

Amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/10 on firefighting enter into force on 1 July 2014, to require a minimum of two two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus for each fire party for fire fighters' communication to be carried. The apparatus shall be of an explosion-proof type or intrinsically safe. Ships constructed before 1 July 2014 shall comply with the above requirements not later than the first survey after 1 July 2018.

Instructions, on-board training and drills

Further amendments to regulation II-2/15 on instructions, on-board training and drills require an on-board means of recharging breathing apparatus cylinders used during drills, or a suitable number of

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spare cylinders.

Protection of vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces

Another amendment to regulation II-2/20 on protection of vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces related to fixed fire-extinguishing systems, updates the requirements. The amendments apply to ships constructed on or after 1 July 2014. Ships constructed before 1 July 2014 shall comply with the previously applicable requirements.

Forms of certificates and records of equipment

Other amendments to the appendix to the annex to the SOLAS Convention replace all forms of certificates and records of equipment, including its 1988 Protocol, and further amendments relate to the forms of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate and Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate of its 1978 Protocol.

Container convention amendments

Also entering into force on 1 July 2014 are amendments to the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972, which were adopted in 2013 by resolution MSC.355(92), to incorporate and facilitate the entry into force of amendments to the CSC Convention adopted in 1993 by resolution A.737(18), including amendments relating to the form of the safety approval plate and to the approval of existing and new containers.

The amendments also introduce a transitional period for marking containers with restricted stacking capacity and include a list of deficiencies which do not require an immediate out-of-service decision by control officers, but require additional safety measures to enable safe ongoing transport.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS, IMO, SOLAS amendments

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,

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