



### **TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 873 of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Carriage of Self-Righting or Canopied Reversible Liferafts for New Ships
Reference	SOLAS chapters III and IV

#### **Carriage of Self-Righting or Canopied Reversible Liferafts for New Ships**

The Sub-Committee had, for its consideration, proposed amendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV and the LSA Code to mandate self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts for new passenger and cargo ships.

The discussion highlighted the need for these amendments to enhance safety and reduce risks associated with manual righting, suggesting a transitional period of three years for passenger ships and five years for cargo ships.

The Sub-Committee confirmed that the scope of application was for automatically self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts (except for liferafts with a capacity of no more than six persons) on new cargo and passenger ships.

Furthermore, the discussions included the applicability of these requirements to all liferafts, regardless of deployment method, and potential exemptions for davit-launched liferafts due to low capsizing risk. It was agreed to exempt liferafts with a capacity of up to 12 persons and to further develop amendments to SOLAS chapter III. The need for additional amendments to other International Maritime Organization (IMO) instruments was acknowledged, and some proposals remain for future consideration.

Next Steps: Discussions to develop further amendments to SOLAS Chapter III will continue in an intersessional correspondence group and at SSE 12 (2026).

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REFERENCES:

- Amendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV and the LSA Code

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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