



# Venezuelan Register Of Shipping Ltd.

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## Circular Letter 003/2015

Date: 06.01.2015

Attn.: VRS Authorized Surveyors / Shipowners / Ship Managers

Subject: Amendments to the SOLAS, 74 Convention.

Dear Sirs,

Venezuelan Register of Shipping Ltd. presents you great respect.

Kindly be informed that as per IMO Resolution MSC.350(92) the amendments were done to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention 74, related to Chapter III, Regulation 19 "Emergency Training and Drills" and Chapter V, Regulation 19 "Carriage Requirements for Shipborne Navigation Systems and Equipment", which become mandatory from 01<sup>st</sup> of January 2015.

Kindly find bellow text of Regulations:

**CHAPTER III**  
**LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS**  
**Part B**

Requirements for ships and life-saving appliances  
Regulation 19 – Emergency training and drills

1 The existing text of paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 is replaced with the following:

"2.2 On a ship engaged on a voyage where passengers are scheduled to be on board for more than 24 h, musters of newly-embarked passengers shall take place prior to or immediately upon departure. Passengers shall be instructed in the use of the lifejackets and the action to take in an emergency.

2.3 Whenever new passengers embark, a passenger safety briefing shall be given immediately before departure, or immediately after departure. The briefing shall include the instructions required by regulations 8.2 and 8.4, and shall be made by means of an announcement, in one or more languages likely to be understood by the passengers. The announcement shall be made on the ship's public address system, or by other equivalent means likely to be heard at least by the passengers who have not yet heard it during the voyage. The briefing may be included in the muster required by paragraph 2.2. Information cards or posters or video programmes displayed on ships video displays may be used to supplement the briefing, but may not be used to replace the announcement."

2 After existing paragraph 3.2, a new paragraph 3.3 is inserted as follows:

"3.3 Crew members with enclosed space entry or rescue responsibilities shall participate in an enclosed space entry and rescue drill to be held on board the ship at least once every two months."

3 Existing sections 3.3 and 3.4 are renumbered as 3.4 and 3.5, respectively. In the renumbered paragraph 3.4.2, the reference "paragraph 3.3.1.5" is replaced by the reference "paragraph

3.4.1.5"; and in the renumbered paragraph 3.4.3, the reference "paragraphs 3.3.4 and 3.3.5" is replaced by the reference "paragraphs 3.4.4 and 3.4.5"

4 After the renumbered section 3.5, the following new section is added:

"3.6 Enclosed space entry and rescue drills

3.6.1 Enclosed space entry and rescue drills should be planned and conducted in a safe manner, taking into account, as appropriate, the guidance provided in the recommendations developed by the Organization\*.

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*\* Refer to the Revised Recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.1050(27).*

3.6.2 Each enclosed space entry and rescue drill shall include:

- .1 checking and use of personal protective equipment required for entry;
- .2 checking and use of communication equipment and procedures;
- .3 checking and use of instruments for measuring the atmosphere in enclosed spaces;
- .4 checking and use of rescue equipment and procedures; and
- .5 instructions in first aid and resuscitation techniques."

5 In paragraph 4.2, at the end of subparagraph .3, the word "and" is deleted; at the end of subparagraph .4, the period "." is replaced by the word "; and"; and after subparagraph .4, the following new subparagraph is added:

".5 risks associated with enclosed spaces and onboard procedures for safe entry into such spaces which should take into account, as appropriate, the guidance provided in recommendations developed by the Organization\*. \_\_\_\_\_"

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*\* Refer to the Revised Recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.1050(27).*

6 In paragraph 5, after the words "fire drills,", the words "enclosed space entry and rescue drills," are inserted.

## **CHAPTER V SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**

Regulation 19 – Carriage requirements for shipborne navigational systems and equipment

7 In subparagraph 1.2.1, the words "1.2.2 and 1.2.3" are replaced with the words "1.2.2, 1.2.3 and 1.2.4".

8 In subparagraph 1.2.2, the word "and" at the end of the subparagraph is deleted and in subparagraph 1.2.3, the full stop "." is replaced with the word "; and".

9 After the existing subparagraph 1.2.3, the following new subparagraph is added:

".4 be fitted with the system required in paragraph 2.2.3, as follows:

- .1 passenger ships irrespective of size, not later than the first survey\* after 1 January 2016;
- .2 cargo ships of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards, not later than the first survey\* after 1 January 2016;
- .3 cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 3,000 gross tonnage, not later than the first survey\* after 1 January 2017; and

.4 cargo ships of 150 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 500 gross tonnage, not later than the first survey\* after 1 January 2018.

The bridge navigational watch alarm system shall be in operation whenever the ship is underway at sea.

The provisions of paragraph 2.2.4 shall also apply to ships constructed before 1 July 2002.

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\* Refer to the Unified interpretation of the term first survey referred to in SOLAS regulations (MSC.1/Circ.1290)."

10After the new subparagraph 1.2.4, the following new paragraph is added:

"1.3 Administrations may exempt ships from the application of the requirement of paragraph 1.2.4 when such ships will be taken permanently out of service within two years after the implementation date specified in subparagraphs 1.2.4.1 to 1.2.4.4."

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Kindly confirm receipt and acknowledgment of Circular Letter 003/2015 by signing and returning to the Head Office the Receipt form.

Yours faithfully,

Kristina Melikyan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Venezuelan Register of Shipping Ltd.

