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Circular Letter 004/2023

Date: 06.09.2023

Attn.: Authorized Surveyors, Ship Owners, Operators, Managers

Subject: Amendments to 1988 Load Lines Protocol, Chapter III Freeboards.

In accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.491(104) "AMENDMENTS TO THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966 (1988 LOAD LINES PROTOCOL)", Chapter III, Freeboards, Regulation 27 (Types of ships), Paragraph 13(a) has been revised and replaced accordingly. The amendments are entering into the force from the 1st of January 2024.

The new Regulation 27, **Paragraph 13(a)** is mentioned below:

13) The condition of equilibrium after flooding shall be regarded as satisfactory provided:

(a) The final waterline after flooding, taking into account sinkage, heel and trim, is below the lower edge of any opening through which progressive downflooding may take place. Such openings shall include air pipes, ventilators (even if they comply with regulation 19(4)) and openings which are closed by means of weathertight doors (even if they comply with regulation 12) or hatch covers (even if they comply with regulation 16(1) through (5)), and may exclude those openings closed by means of manhole covers and flush scuttles (which comply with regulation 18), cargo hatch covers of the type described in regulation 27(2), remotely operated sliding watertight doors, hinged watertight access doors with open/closed indication locally and at the navigation bridge, of the quickacting or single-action type that are normally closed at sea, hinged watertight doors that are permanently closed at sea, and sidescuttles of the non-opening type (which comply with regulation 23). In the case of doors separating a main machinery space from a steering gear compartment, watertight doors may be of a hinged, quick-acting type kept closed at sea whilst not in use, provided also that the lower sill of such doors is above the summer load waterline."

Kindly confirm receipt and acknowledgment of Circular Letter 004/2023 by signing and returning to the Head Office Receipt Form.

Kindly be guided accordingly.
Yours faithfully,
Kristina Melikyan
Chief Executive Officer

