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Circular Letter 008/2025

Date: 18.11.2025

Attn.: VRS Authorized Surveyors, Shipowners, Ship operator, Managing Companies

Subject: AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE (LSA) CODE

As per IMO Resolution MSC.554(108), "AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE (LSA) CODE" shall enter into the force from the 1 January 2026.

The amendments in the annex are to be applied to life-saving appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026 where the expression "installed on or after 1 January 2026" means:

- (a) for ships for which the building contract is placed on or after 1 January 2026, or in the absence of the contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2026, all installations of the specified type on board those ships; or
- (b) for ships other than those ships specified in (a) above, all installations of the specified type, having a contractual delivery date for the equipment or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date to the ship, actually delivered to the ship on or after 1 January 2026;

Kindly find below the amendments:

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AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE (LSA) CODE

CHAPTER II PERSONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES

2.2 Lifejackets

2.2.1 General requirements for lifejackets

1. Paragraph 2.2.1.6.2 is replaced by the following:

"2 turn the body of unconscious, face-down persons in the water to a face-up position where the nose and mouth are clear of the water in an average time not exceeding that of the RTD plus 1 s;"

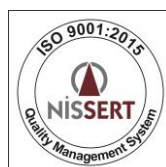
CHAPTER IV SURVIVAL CRAFT

4.4 General requirements for lifeboats

4.4.7 Lifeboat fittings

2. Paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 is replaced by the following:

"8 to prevent an accidental release during recovery of the boat, the hook shall not be able to support any load unless the hook is completely reset. In the case of a hook which is capable of releasing the lifeboat or rescue boat with a load on the hook when it is not fully waterborne, the handle or safety pins shall not be able to be returned to the reset (closed) position, and any indicators shall not indicate the release mechanism is reset, unless the hook is completely reset. Additional danger signs shall be posted at each hook station to alert crew members to the proper method of resetting;"



3. Paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 is replaced by the following:

“.17 where a single fall and hook system is used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat in combination with a suitable painter, the requirements of paragraphs 4.4.7.6.7 and 4.4.7.6.15 need not be applicable; provided that the single fall and hook system does not have the capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat with a load on the hook when it is not fully waterborne.

CHAPTER VI

LAUNCHING AND EMBARKATION APPLIANCES

6.1.2 Launching appliances using falls and a winch

4. Paragraph 6.1.2.8 is replaced by the following:

"6.1.2.8 The speed at which the fully loaded survival craft or rescue boat is lowered to the water shall not be less than that obtained from the formula:

$$S = 0.4 + 0.02H, \text{ or } 1.0, \text{ whichever is less where:}$$

S is the lowering speed in metres per second and;

H is the height in metres from the davit head to the waterline with the ship at the lightest sea-going condition."

5. Paragraph 6.1.2.10 is replaced by the following:

"6.1.2.10 The maximum lowering speed of a fully loaded survival craft or rescue boat shall be 1.3 m/s. The Administration may accept a maximum lowering speed other than 1.3 m/s, having regard to the design of the survival craft or rescue boat, the protection of its occupants from excessive forces, and the strength of the launching arrangements taking into account inertia forces during an emergency stop. Means shall be incorporated in the appliance to ensure that this speed is not exceeded."

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Kindly be guided accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Kristina Melikyan

Chief Executive Officer

