



№ 32/CIRC/FSI

25 / December / 2019

TO: Recognized Organizations, Ship Owners, Operators, Masters  
and Officers

**Subject: New Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear (MSC.402(96)) and Guidelines on Safety during Abandon Ship Drills Using Lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1578).**

### 1. Background/Introduction

1.1 The Maritime Safety Committee adopted the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) on the requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear in conjunction with the IMO Resolution MSC.404(96) which, among others, amends the Regulations 3 and 20 of Chapter III of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (“SOLAS Convention”).

1.2 These amendments are coming into force on **January 01, 2020**.

1.3 In the amended Regulations 3 and 20 of Chapter III of the SOLAS Convention, the requirements for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear contained in the Guidelines MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, “Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats”, will be replaced by the mandatory IMO Resolution MSC.402(96).

### 2. APPLICATION

2.1 from January 01, 2020, the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats and launching appliances and on-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit-launched life rafts shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96).

2.2 In accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.402(96), the weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s) shall be conducted by an authorised service provider or by shipboard personnel under the direction of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s).

### 3. Requirements

3.1 The Annual thorough examinations and operational tests or the five yearly thorough examinations, overhauls, overload operational tests and repairs shall be conducted by either;

- The manufacturer (an Original Equipment Manufacturer does not need to be authorised to service its own equipment);
- The manufacturer acting as a service provider (when it is servicing equipment that is not its own) or a service provider authorised by an Administration of an IMO SOLAS Contracting Government or by their ROs in accordance with the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96);
- The manufacturer acting as a service provider or a service provider holding an Approval Certificate of a Service Supplier issued by a RO recognised by the Government of the Republic of Georgia in accordance with latest Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers IACS UR Z 17 corresponding to the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96).

3.2 For all the above mentioned, service personnel shall be certified appropriately by the manufacturer or by an authorised service provider for each make and type of the equipment to be worked on. An authorised service provider can only certify its own personnel.

3.3 In cases where a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support the mentioned circular may issue, on case by case basis, authorisation for a service provider based on their prior authorisation for the equipment and/or long-term experience and demonstrated expertise as an authorised service provider.

3.4 The Five-yearly thorough examinations, overhauls and operational tests should be done in the presence of a surveyor (MSC.1/Circ.1618).

#### 4. Reports and Records

4.1 The relevant maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation developed by the manufacturer must be kept up-to-date by the Company and available on board. Refer to MSC.1/Circ.1205/Rev.1 for developing operation and maintenance manuals for lifeboat systems.

4.2 All reports and checklists shall be completed and signed by the person who carries out the inspection and maintenance work and countersigned by the Company's representative or the ship's master.

4.3 Records of maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair shall be updated and filed on board the ship for the service life of the equipment.

#### 5. Authorization

5.1 For authorization Service providers may apply to any of the ROs, being the member of IACS, authorized by the Government of the Georgia for obtaining certification.

5.2 ROs may issue an authorization document to a service provider based of the mentioned circular and in accordance with the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96).

5.3 The authorization issued by the ROs on our behalf shall be limited to each make and type of equipment to be serviced. The definition of “make and type” is understood as the following:

- Make of equipment: name of equipment’s manufacturer;
- Type of equipment: type/model of equipment or series of equipment if there is no difference in maintenance and examination but not the kind of equipment such as “lifeboats” or “launching appliances” or “on load release gears” etc.

#### 6. Transitional and concluding provisions

6.1 Service provider certificate issued under MSC.1/Circ.1277 “Interim Recommendation on Conditions for Authorisation of Service Providers for Lifeboats, Launching Appliance and On-Load Release Gear” in accordance with IACS UR Z 17 will remain valid after January 01, 2020 up until its expiry date, but in no case later than 1 July 2020. Resolution MSC.402(96) must be applied to certificates issued on or after 1 January 2020.

#### 7. Guidelines

7.1 Take into account the IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1578 “Guidelines on Safety during Abandon Ship Drills Using Lifeboats” (MSC.1/Circ.1578 is attached hereto for your ease of reference).

7.2 The Maritime Safety Committee approved the MSC.1/Circ.1578 and its appendix “Guidelines for Simulated Launching of Freefall Lifeboats during Drills” following the amalgamation of annex 1 to the Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1) and the Interim Recommendation on conditions for authorization of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear (MSC.1/Circ.1277) in the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (resolution MSC.402(96)), which revoked annex 1 to MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1.

Attachments:

- Resolution MSC.404(96) – Amendments to The International Convention For The Safety Of Life At Sea 1974, as Amended.
- Resolution MSC.402(96) – Requirement For Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul And Repair of Lifeboats And Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances And Release Gear.
- MSC.1/Circ.1578 - Guidelines on Safety during Abandon Ship Drills Using Lifeboats.

Agency Director

SIGNED/SEALED  
ELECTRONICALLY 

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