



№ 15/CIRC/FSI

2021 / 09 /22

To: All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships flying  
Georgia Flag, Masters and Officers, Recognized Organizations,  
Flag State Inspectors, Recognized Agents.

**Subject : Plans and Procedures to Recover Persons from the Water**

**Reference:**

**International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), as amended;**  
**IMO Resolution MSC.346(91), Application of SOLAS Regulation III/17-1 to ships to which SOLAS Chapter III does not apply,**  
**adopted 30 November 2012;**  
**IMO MSC.1/Circ.1447, Guidelines for the Development of Plans and Procedures for Recovery of Persons from the Water, issued 14**  
**December 2012;**  
**IMO MSC.1/Circ.1182/Rev.1, Guide to Recovery Techniques, issued 21 November 2014**  
**Maritime Code of Georgia;**  
**Order N 16 dated December 1 of the Director of LEPL Maritime Transport Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable**  
**Development of Georgia on the approval Technical Standards and the Safety Rules for Yachts (YACHT CODE).**

### **1. Purpose:**

1.1 The purpose of this Circular is to inform shipowners and ship operators regarding SOLAS regulation III/17-1 adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) resolution MSC.338(91) which requires all ships to have plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water. Mentioned regulation enters into force on 1 July 2014 year.

### **2. Introduction:**

2.2 As a seafarer, you may have to recover people in distress at sea. This might be someone overboard from your own ship – a fellow crew member, or a passenger – or your ship might be responding to someone else's emergency; for example, a ship abandoned because of flooding or fire, or a ditched aircraft. You may have little warning, and lives may be in your hands.

### **3. Application:**

3.1 This Circular applies to all Georgian flagged vessels (including private and commercial yachts) engaged in the international navigation and vessels engaged in domestic navigation to which the ISM Code is applies.

3.2 This regulation applies to new ships constructed on or after 1 July 2014 and to existing ships by the first periodical or renewal safety equipment survey or certificate of survey, as applicable after 1 July 2014, (whichever comes first). Ro-Ro passenger ships meeting SOLAS Regulation III/26.4 are deemed to comply with this requirement.

#### 4. Plans and Procedures:

4.1 All ships shall have ship-specific plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water and taking into account the guidelines developed by the **IMO MSC.1/Circ.1447** and **MSC.1/Circ.1182/Rev.1**.

4.2 The plans and procedures shall identify the equipment intended to be used for recovery purposes and measures to be taken to minimize the risk to shipboard personnel involved in recovery operations.

4.3 The recovery plans and procedures should facilitate the transfer of persons from the water to the ship while minimizing the risk of injury from impact with the ship's side or other structures, including the recovery appliance itself.

4.4 The plans and procedures should be considered as a part of the emergency preparedness plan required by paragraph 8 of part A of the ISM Code.

#### 5. Verification:

5.1 Recognized Organizations (ROs) or/and Appointed Surveyor are required to confirm that plans and procedures to recover persons from the water exist onboard and that the listed equipment is in satisfactory condition. This will be carried out during the statutory survey of safety equipment (initial, annual, periodical, renewal) or Compliance Verification (initial, annual or renewal), as applicable.

#### 6. Compliance:

6.1 Hereby, you are requested to take into account the above-mentioned requirement in order to avoid non-compliance with Flag State requirements, which may result in monetary sanctions, removal of registration or suspension of registration of subject vessel found in violation.

#### 7. Contact Details:

7.1 Recognized Organizations, Shipowner, ship operator or Management Company of a ship flying the Georgian flag may contact MTA for Additional consultations and assistance.

LEPL – Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia  
Ships Registry and Flag Control Department  
Tel: +995 (422) 274925  
E-mail: [fsi@mta.gov.ge](mailto:fsi@mta.gov.ge)  
Hotline/AOH: +995 (577) 221622

#### Attachments:

*Annex I - IMO Resolution MSC.346 (91), Application of SOLAS Regulation III/17-1 to ships to which SOLAS Chapter III does not apply.*  
*Annex II - IMO MSC.1/Circ.1447, Guidelines for the Development of Plans and Procedures for Recovery of Persons from the Water.*  
*Annex III - IMO MSC.1/Circ.1182/Rev.1, Guide to Recovery Techniques.*

Director

SIGNED/SEALED  
ELECTRONICALLY 

Tamar Ioseliani

