

M.S. Notice 29 of 2002

No. 19-NT(4)/94

Dated: November 11, 2002

Sub: Fitment of life saving appliances, Navigational equipments, Radio communication equipments etc on board Indian Ships

1. The Directorate regularly receives several queries on the subject of fitment of life saving appliances, Radio communication equipments, navigational equipments etc on Indian Ships.

2. In accordance with section 283 of the M.S. Act, 1958, Safety Convention includes International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 74 as amended and all Indian ships are required to comply with the requirements of the Safety Convention as applicable.

3. Attention is invited to the applicable IMO Resolutions, circulars and recommendations with respect to general requirements for life saving appliances, Radio communication equipments and Navigational equipments as mentioned in chapters III, IV and V of the SOLAS 74 as amended respectively.

4. Attention is also invited to provisions under various Merchant Shipping Rules notified in gazette of India and made under the relevant sections of the M S Act, 1958 wherein certain responsibilities and authority have been vested with the Nautical Advisor to the Government of India.

5. In accordance with such M.S. Rules, unless otherwise expressly provided in these rules, life saving appliances, and navigational equipments and Radio communication equipments carried on an Indian ship and their arrangements shall comply with the requirements of these rules and shall be tested in accordance with relevant IMO recommendations. Appropriate plans and relevant equipment falling under LSA, Navigation or Radio communication must be approved by the Nautical Adviser to the Government of India.

6. Indian ships newly built outside India, are required to ensure that such equipment comply to relevant parts of SOLAS 74 as amended including applicable IMO Recommendations etc and are approved by the Maritime Administrations of respective countries of manufacture of that equipment for their acceptance by the Nautical Adviser to the Govt. of India.

7. Newly acquired second hand Indian ships, are like-wise required to ensure that such equipments comply to relevant parts of SOLAS 74 as amended including applicable IMO recommendations and must be approved by Maritime Administrations of respective countries in which such equipments are manufactured. In order to ensure verification of such compliance, all ship owners /ship managers of

newly acquired vessels must forward details of aforesaid compliance to the Nautical Adviser to the Govt. of India for grant of their acceptance certificate.

8. Under ISM Code, it is mandatory that requirements of maritime legislation be incorporated in the safety management system of the ship and the company. Non-compliance with national legislation is tantamount to violation of the principles of the safety management system. Carriage of duly approved equipment aboard ships for safe operation of ships forms an important part of ISM compliance.

In view of foregoing, all ship owners, ship managers, ship builders and classification societies are urged to ensure that equipments referred to in para 5 above fitted on Indian ships are approved by the Nautical Advisor to the Government of India.

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping.

**Sd/-
(Capt. S.K.Mishra)
Nautical Surveyor**