

## **M.S. Notice 18 of 2010**

**No:70-NT(1)/2008-pt**

**Dated: 08.11.2010**

**Subject: Life Saving Arrangements under Chapter III of SOLAS 1974 as amended - reg.**

### **PART I**

#### **Introduction**

1) The traditional equipment and appliances such as Life Saving Appliances (LSA) are as closely connected to the safety of the crew and passengers. These appliances are used as last resort when all other available means are exhausted and are proven to be inadequate to support life at sea. The structured approach to safeguard human life on board ship is dependent on the technology, which the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulations cover, standard of crew which STCW prescribes and procedures for the surveys and certification defined under various IMO instruments. The Chapter III of SOLAS 1974 as amended deals with life saving appliances of two categories namely primary system i.e. conventional or enclosed life boats with means of mechanical propulsions supplemented by life support systems that provides adequate safeguard against hazardous material and secondary system i.e. all types of life rafts without any means of mechanical propulsions and other personnel life saving appliances inadequate protection against the perils encountered after the abandonment.

2) The Central Government recognizing the significance of safety of life of crew, passengers and persons at sea on board Indian ships wherever they are and ships other than Indian ships within territorial waters of India ratified SOLAS 1974 as amended on 16.06.1976 and the provision entered into force on 25.05.1980 internationally as well as for India.

3) The provisions of the SOLAS 1974 as amended have been incorporated in the Merchant Shipping Act 1958. The detailed technical rules in respect of Chapter III have been framed under the provision of Merchant Shipping Act 1958 called Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 1982 applicable to ships built before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1986. Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules 1991 is applicable to ships built on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1986. Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) 1995 amendment rules were framed to incorporate 1983 amendments for ships built before 1<sup>st</sup> July 1986. These amendments came into force internationally with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1986.

4) Chapter III- Life Saving Appliances was completely revised through June 1996 amendments and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1998. Many of the technical requirements were transferred to a new Life Saving Appliances Code (LSA Code) applicable to all ships built on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July 1998. Since then there have been many amendments adopted by IMO affecting SOLAS 1974 Chapter III. The Indian Legislation has not been correspondingly updated, though many Merchant Shipping Notices have been issued to promulgate these amendments.

## **PART II**

### **Compliance with SOLAS 1974 Chapter III as amended**

#### **Existing National Rules:**

5) The Central Government has the following provisions in its National Legislation in order to give effect to the adopted relevant IMO amendments:-

- n Section 288 & 290 Life Saving Appliances Rule making & Control procedure;
- n Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 1982 for ships built before 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1986;
- n Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 1991 for ships built on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1986;
- n Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Rules, 1995 amendment for ships built before 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1986;
- n Eng Cir-025/066- Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of Lifeboats, Launching Appliances;
- n Eng Cir. 039- Approved lifeboat falls on Indian ships;
- n Eng Cir. 113- Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats- MSC Circ.1206/1277;
- n Merchant Shipping Notice No 1/2005- Servicing of Life Saving Appliances;
- n Merchant Shipping Notice No.2/2005- Approval of Life Saving Appliances as per IMO Resolution MSC 81(70);
- n Merchant Shipping Notice 1/2006- servicing of Life Saving Appliances;
- n Merchant Shipping Notice 2/2006- Misuse of Pyrotechnics;
- n Merchant Shipping Notice 5/2006- carriage of immersion suits;
- n Merchant Shipping Notice 2/2008- Type approval of Life Saving Appliances;
- n Merchant Shipping Notice 12/2009- Enclosed lifeboat recovery of on load release mechanism; and
- n Merchant Shipping Notice 1/2010- Carriage of Immersion Suits- clarification;

The existing Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) 1982, 1991 Rules and 1995 amendment are under revision to cover the gaps in respect of new amendments adopted after 1983 amendments. Under these circumstances, the mariners including ship owners and others concerned shall continue to comply with the relevant provisions of the act and the existing Rules, the M.S. notices, Eng. Circulars stated above and new regulations as stated below:

#### **New Provisions of Chapter III of SOLAS 1974 as amended:**

6) The new provisions of Chapter III of SOLAS 1974, as amended adopted by IMO are:

- **May 2000 amendment entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002**

#### **Regulation 28**

(a) Helicopter landing and pick up areas.

- **December 2002 amendment entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004,**

#### **Regulation 26**

(b) Additional requirement for ro-ro passenger ships (Fitment of Radar Transponder on Life rafts).

- **December amendment 2004 entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006,**

**Regulation 19**

(c) Emergency training and drills (launching and manoeuvring in water by assigned operating crew).

**Regulation 20**

(d) Operation readiness, maintenance and inspection.

**Regulation 31**

(e) Survival crafts and Rescue boats mandatory carriage of free fall lifeboats on bulk carriers.

**Regulation 32**

(f) Personal life saving appliances- Carriage of Immersion suits for every person on board the ships.

- **May 2006 amendments entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2008**

**Regulation 19**

(g) Emergency training and drills -A launching of free-fall lifeboat only by the required operating crew on board or lowering into water by means of secondary means of launching with or without crew on board for the purpose of preventing accidents involving life boats.

(h) Amendment to Life Saving Appliances Code including those related to life rafts, lifeboats, and rescue boats particularly in relation to stowage and release mechanisms.

(i) Amendments to the revised recommendations on testing Life Saving Appliances (Resolution MSC.81(70) including revision to prototype tests for lifebuoys, lifejackets, immersion suits, anti-exposure suits and thermal protective aids, life rafts, lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching and embarkation appliances, position-indicating lights for Life Saving Appliances and hydrostatic release units and revisions to production and installation tests for survival craft, launching and stowage arrangements. This takes into effect through MSC. 200(80) entering into force with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

- **May 2006 amendments entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010**

**Regulation 6 and 26**

(j) Search and rescue locating device.

- **May 2006 amendments entering into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010**

**Regulation 7**

(k) Personal Life Saving Appliances -

(a) for passenger ships on voyages of less than 24 hours, a number of infant lifejackets equal to at least 2.5 % of the number of passengers on board shall be provided;

(b) for passenger ships on voyages of 24 hours or greater, infant lifejackets shall be provided for each infant on board;

(c) Even though infant life jackets are required only for passenger ships as stated above, considering the fact that children are sailing along with officers as supernumeraries at time in

cargo ships, and for few of the children, who may fall under the category of 'infant' (i.e. weight less than 15 kg, height less than 100cm), existing child life jackets may not be suitable, therefore 'infant' life jackets shall be provided for such infants when they are likely to sail on cargo ships. As a general guidance a child below the age of three years may be considered as an 'infant';

(d) if the adult lifejackets provided are not designed to fit persons weighting up to 140 kg and with a chest girth of up to 1750 mm, at least 5 % of Life Saving Appliances capacity of lifejackets shall be provided with accessories on board the vessels for oversized persons. If suitable accessories are not readily available, the ship owner / master shall place at least 5% of Life Saving Appliances capacity which would conform to the requirements of Life Saving Appliances Code (MSC 207(81)) on board Indian ships;

(e) any life jackets supplied on any Indian ships on or after 01<sup>st</sup> July 2010 are required to comply with the revised requirements (MSC.207 (81)) of Life Saving Appliances Code and amended requirements with respect to the testing of life jackets; and

(f) all Indian ships which are required to carry life jackets as per existing rules shall comply with the revised requirements of life jackets conforming to the MSC.201 (81) as applicable.

**(I) Amendments to the International Life Saving Appliances Code (LSA Code): -**

The amendments include the requirements that all Life-Saving Appliances shall withstand in stowage and air temperature range of 30<sup>o</sup> C to + 65<sup>o</sup> C and personal Life Saving Appliances shall remain operational through out an air temperature range of -15 <sup>o</sup>C to + 40<sup>o</sup> C. The colour of Life Saving Appliances is now specified to be of international or vivid reddish orange or a comparably highly visible colour on all parts where this will assist direction at sea. Existing section 2.2 on general requirements for life jackets is revised and replaced. Further amendments relates to specification for immersion suits and anti-exposure suits.

**(m) Carriage of Rescue boats on cargo and passenger ships -**

The ship owner/ ship master of Indian ships shall ensure to provide rescue boats conforming to the performance standard stipulated in the Life Saving Appliances Code as amended. The number and stowage shall meet the requirements of existing rules and the relevant notices issued by the Directorate.

7) A copy of latest edition of SOLAS 1974 as amended, highlighting these amendments along with the Indian M.S. (LSA) Rules and Notices /Eng. Circulars as stated above shall be maintained on board Indian ships as well as ashore in the shipping company's office for reference purpose.

8) The type approval of Life Saving Appliances for newly installed equipments shall be given by Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). The Life Saving Appliances plans approval shall also be undertaken by the IRS. List of approved vendors for the Life Saving Appliances are given in NT Branch Circular No. NT/LSA/04/06 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 which is available on DGS website. The approvals granted by IRS to the vendors on behalf of Govt. of India shall be made available to the

user by them. However, the Director General of Shipping is the Competent Authority for the purpose of granting exemption to the Indian ships from compliance under the provision of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

9) The Director General of shipping authorizes the Principal Officer of the Mercantile Marine Department District or his Authorized Official to conduct the inspection prescribed under Section 290 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and who shall detain the ships and sailing if found not complying with the provisions of the regulations and the act. He shall conduct the inspection in accordance with procedure laid out in IMO resolution 787 (19) as amended by 882 (21).

10) The Owner, Manager, Master, Crew, Agent and any other Person affected by the decision of the Principal Officer or his Authorized Official or the Recognized Organization i.e. IRS or others by the Central Government has right to appeal against such decision. The appeal shall be made to the Director General of Shipping) within a period of 15 days.

11) The Director General of Shipping recognizes that the Life Saving Appliances and arrangements contribute to safety of life at sea extensively. Directorate General of Shipping now issues the above directives under the provision of Section 290 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

12) The Ship Owner, Ship Mangers, Mariner, Harbour Master, Pilots and other concerned in the operation of ships and sailing vessels shall comply with the existing and new regulations as stated above strictly. The Director General of Shipping upon receipt of reports from the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department District or his Authorized Official that the provisions of this notice are infringed, may in addition to the detention of the ship initiate legal action prescribed under the act against the mariner or owner of the ship if deemed appropriate.

13) Co-operation of all concerned is solicited for the purpose of protecting sea borne Trade, Promoting Safety of Life, Property and Preservation of Marine Environment.

14) This issues with approval of Director General of Shipping.

**Sd/-**

**(Capt. Deepak Kapoor)**

**Nautical Surveyor-cum-**

**Dy. Director General of Shipping [Tech]**