

Certification of Offshore vessels, Accommodation barges etc.under the provisions of SOLAS 1974 or Special purpose Ships Safety Code

Shipping Development Circular No.2 of 2006

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Sub: Certification of Offshore vessels, Accommodation barges etc.under the provisions of SOLAS 1974 or Special purpose Ships Safety Code.

Further to this Directorates decision regarding certification of offshore vessels, Accommodation Barges etc., which carry more than 12 offshore personnel, under the provision of SOLAS 1974 as Passenger Vessel or under the relevant provisions of Special Purpose Ships Safety Code, a number of queries have been received seeking various clarifications.

It may be noted by the ship owners that all the self propelled vessels engaged in offshore operation and carrying more than 12 offshore personnel on board are required to be certified either as a passenger ship under the provisions of SOLAS 1974 as amended or as special purpose ship under the provisions of Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships as amended. In so far as the non propelled vessels, such as Accommodation Barges are concerned, their hull, equipments, Auxiliary Machinery, Structural Fire arrangement, stability / damage stability and safety equipment should comply with the relevant provisions of the Special Purpose Ship Safety Code and a certifying letter to this effect from the vessels class (holding IACS membership) or flag should be available on board.

If the flag administration of such vessels, has equivalent rules covering above aspects then certification under these rules shall also be acceptable.

Sd/-

(S.G.Bhandare)

Asstt.Director General of Shipping