



Luxembourg, June 15th 2016

Circular CAM 05/2016

To: All Accredited Shipping Managers, Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Designated Persons Ashore, Masters of Luxembourg flagged ships, Recognised Organisations (ROs) and Recognised Security Organisations (RSOs).

Approval of inflatable life-rafts subject to extended service intervals not exceeding 30 months

Viking inflatable life-raft range type S30

The purpose of this circular is to inform all parties concerned that the Commissariat aux affaires maritimes approves the **Viking inflatable life-raft range type S30** packed for extended service intervals according to SOLAS 74 as amended, Chapter III Regulation 20.8.3, to be installed on board of the Luxembourg flagged vessels. The packing consists of a hermetically sealed pouch within a GPR container.

The life-rafts must be approved in accordance with;

- Council Directive 96/98/EC of 20/12/1996 on Marine Equipment as amended;
- the SOLAS 74 as amended, Chapter III regulations 4 - 34;
- the resolution MSC.81 (70) as amended, and
- the IMO MSC/Circ.811.

In addition, these life-rafts must have successfully passed the tests according MSC.1/Circ.1328 of June 2009 on “Guidelines for the approval of inflatable life-rafts subject to extended service intervals not exceeding 30 months”.

The life-rafts are intended to be installed and must be inspected and serviced in accordance with the provisions of MSC.1/Circ. 1328 and under the following conditions:

1. Servicing shall be carried out at 30 months intervals maximum, only at approved servicing stations which have additionally been appointed for this purpose by Viking Life-Saving Equipment A/S.

2. As long as the hermetic seal has not been compromised, the 30 months service intervals will apply for the first 10 years of their service lives. Regular service intervals according to SOLAS regulation III/20.8.1.1. shall be followed when the age of the life-raft exceeds 10 years of age. Hermetic seal verification must be performed at maximum intervals of 12 months from the date of last service or on-board inspection. This is done on-board the ship by qualified persons who have been adequately trained and certified by the life-raft manufacturer, according to instructions for on-board inspections as laid out by Viking Life-Saving Equipment A/S. During these on-board inspections, the humidity level and possible leakage of the inflation gas is monitored. All readings are recorded and kept on-board together with the life-raft certificate for documentation and inspection purposes. If the periodic on-board inspection reveals a loss of inflation gas, the life-raft should undergo a full service immediately. If excess humidity is present, the life-raft should be serviced and repacked within 3 months from inspection, or 30 months from repacking whichever comes first. If the seal verification reveals loss of hermetic seal for any reason the life-raft shall be serviced and repacked within 3 months from inspection, or 30 months from repacking comes first.
3. All servicing tests prescribed in IMO Resolution A.761(18), as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.388 (94), which would have been carried out during the period of the extended service interval will be carried out by the servicing station at the next service after the nominal “due date” of that test. At this service, a new packing material of the hermetically sealed pouch within the GRP outer container must be used in case of signs of degradation, abrasion or other wear and tear that will affect the quality, purpose and lifespan of the packing material.
4. Both the on-board inspection and servicing of life-rafts must be well planned as no postponement on the inspection and service intervals will be given. Also no exemption on the requirements regarding the certification of the inspection personnel or approval of the servicing station will be given.
5. In addition to other markings, the container for the S30 life-rafts will carry the following label :

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This life-raft is permitted for extended service intervals of 30 months at an approved servicing station.2. The life-raft must be inspected on-board by a person certified for such purpose by Viking Live-Saving Equipment A/S at intervals not exceeding 12 months. |
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(s) Robert BIWER
Government Commissioner
for maritime affairs