



Luxembourg, 31th May 2018

Circular CAM 007/2018

Subject: Initial testing of watertight bulkheads (SOLAS II-1/11)

To: All Accredited Shipping Managers, ship owners, ship operators, Masters, designated persons of Luxembourg flagged ships, RO's and Flag State Inspectors

O/Ref.: AH/109194

Background

- SOLAS Reg. II-1/11.2 and 11.3 requires all tanks of new ships to be tested under water pressure. IACS, in its Unified Requirement S 14, provides alternative provisions to the requirements of SOLAS Reg. II-1/11.2 and 11.3. These have been submitted to SDC 1 (SDC 1/INF.13) for consideration in an effort to work towards amending SOLAS regulation II-1/11. No consensus could be found and SOLAS Reg. II-1/11 was not amended.
- MSC95 decided that IACS' UR S 14 can be used by administrations on a case by case basis.

CAM's position on the subject

Having reviewed IACS UR S14, the Commissariat aux affaires maritimes (CAM) has concluded that they can be considered equivalent to the requirements provided in SOLAS II-1/11.2 and 11.3 under the following conditions :

- the tank testing plan shall be reviewed and confirmation of the structural similarity of tanks as stated in IACS URS 14, as amended, shall be provided by the Recognized Organization's (RO) plan approval department;
- the shipyard where the ship is being built shall have in place a certified quality management system according to a recognized standard, e.g. ISO 9001 or an equivalent standard acceptable to the RO which ensures the shipbuilding quality standard covering the production process; and
- the RO shall have experience with the yard and their records so that the provisions of IACS UR S 14 are considered adequate for the purpose of ensuring the required tightness and structural strength of watertight boundaries.

Adequate dissemination of this information within your company and to the Luxembourg flagged vessels which are affected is requested.



(s) Robert BIWER
Government Commissioner
for maritime affairs