



Luxembourg, 10 August 2015

Circular CAM 08/2015

Subject: i) **SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 19.3.6.2.3 on enclosed spaces entry and rescue drills and**
 ii) **Early implementation of SOLAS Regulation XI-1/7 on atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces.**

To : All Accredited Shipping Managers, ship owners, ship operators, and designated persons of Luxembourg flagged ships.

In order to reduce the serious threats posed to people in general and seafarers in particular working in enclosed spaces on board ships, IMO has adopted new requirements to SOLAS Chapter III Life-saving appliances and arrangements - Regulation 19.

The above mentioned amendments came into force on 1 January 2015. As a result, crew members are now required to participate in an enclosed space entry and rescue drill on board the ship, at least once every two months.

Mandatory requirements for the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instruments on board ships, as per SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, were also adopted by IMO in November 2014, with a view to enter into force by 1 July 2016.

Whereas these devices have not been developed to be a complement of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) of each person on board, they will soon be part of the portfolio of the safety equipment of the ship.

The instruments to test the atmosphere's content of any enclosed space must be operated from the outside. Moreover, in order to make sure that a specific area is in principle safe for people to enter, the following gases need all to be carefully monitored: oxygen, flammable gasses or vapors, carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide^(*).

Taking into account that the amendments to SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 will only enter into force on 1 July 2016, IMO decided to issue MSC.1/Circ.1477 encouraging Governments and Parties to opt for their early implementation. Likewise, this maritime administration strongly invites Companies, Designated Persons Ashore (DPAs) and Masters of ships flying the Luxembourg flag to follow IMO's recommendations in this respect.

Please note carefully that enclosed spaces entry and rescue drill new requirements also apply to High Speed Crafts, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units and Dynamically Supported Crafts as from 1 January 2015 onwards.

For further information, please refer to IMO documents:

- Resolution MSC.350 (92) - Amendments to SOLAS Chapter III, regulation 19;
- Resolution MSC. MSC.380 (94) - Amendments to SOLAS Chapter XI -1, regulation 7;
- Resolution A.1050 (27) - Recommendations for entering enclosed spaces;
- MSC.1/Circ.1477 - Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7

^(*) further reading of <http://www.skuld.com/Documents/Topics/Ship/SOLAS%201974/Oxygen%20levels%20-%20Skuld.pdf?epslanguage=en> is highly recommended.

The current circular is of paramount importance in the context of the recent announcement of Concentrated Inspections campaigns (CIC) of Paris and Tokyo MOUs on enclosed space entry and rescue drills for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships - see Circ. CAM/07/2015.

You are kindly requested to ensure adequate dissemination of this information within your company and to the relevant Luxembourg flagged vessels.



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for maritime affairs