



Luxembourg, 24 December 2019

Circular CAM 08/2019

O/Ref. : RB/111271

Subject: **Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear**

To : All Accredited Shipping Managers, ship owners, ship operators, shipyards, ship masters, designated persons of Luxembourg flagged ships, manufacturers, (authorized) service providers / suppliers and Recognized Organization.

References

- [IMO Resolution MSC.404\(96\)](#) Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, containing amendments to SOLAS III/3 and III/20
- [IMO Resolution MSC.402\(96\)](#) Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear; it effectively supersedes and mandates the requirements previously included in MSC.1/Circular.1206/Rev.1 as well as MSC.1/Circular 1277
- [IACS UR Z17](#) - Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers in its up to date version

Applicability

This Circular applies to all ships falling under the scope of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

According to the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96), from 1 January 2020, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing overhaul and repair of the following items shall be carried out by authorized service providers for each make and type of the equipment to be worked on:

- Lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats
- Launching appliances as well as on-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit-launched life rafts

It should be noted that IACS Approved Service Suppliers are the same as authorized service providers as defined in the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96).

Requirements

The following inspection intervals are described:

Weekly and monthly inspections shall be conducted by authorized service providers, or by shipboard personnel under the direction of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s).

Annual thorough examinations and operational tests shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider. The service provider may be the ship operator, provided they are authorized.

Five-year thorough examination, any overhaul, overload operational tests and repairs shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider. *This shall be done in the presence of a Recognized Organization (RO) surveyor authorized to act as RO on behalf of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.*

The scope is described in the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96), sections 6.1 (general), 6.2 (annual thorough examination and operational tests) and 6.3 (five-yearly thorough examination, overhaul and overload operational tests).

Authorized service provider

An authorized service provider is an entity authorized by an RO authorized to act on behalf of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in accordance with the requirements given in IMO Resolution MSC.402(96), section 8. The authorization shall be limited to the make and type of equipment to be serviced. A service branch of a manufacturer also needs to obtain authorization. The authorized service provider will certify their personnel for each make and type of equipment. The ROs will issue the authorization document and ensure that information regarding authorized service providers is made available.

The Commissariat aux affaires maritimes (CAM) also accepts or recognizes service providers authorized by a Maritime Administrations from another European member State or by their Ros, as long as this RO is also authorized to act as RO on behalf of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

When a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, CAM may, on a case by case, authorize other service providers for the equipment, based on prior authorization for the said equipment and/or if the service provider can demonstrate long-term experience and expertise for the said equipment.

Certification of service personnel

Service personnel shall be certified by the manufacturer or by an authorized service provider for each make and type of the equipment to be worked on. An authorized service provider can only certify its own personnel (i.e. employed by the same service provider).

Certification of service personnel shall be performed in accordance with a recognized international or industry standard as applicable, or a manufacturer's established certification program. In either case, the certification process and program shall comply with requirements of IMO Resolution MSC.402(96), section 8, for each make and type of equipment for which service is to be provided.

Upon completion of personnel certification, a certificate shall be issued (by the manufacturer or service provider) defining the level of qualification (annual or five-yearly) and the scope of the certification (i.e. makes and model of equipment). The expiry date shall clearly be stated on the certificate and shall not exceed three years from the date of issuance.

It should be noted that the definition of “make and type” is the same as “make and model” mentioned in IACS UR Z17 para 5.1.1 and is understood as the following:

- Make of equipment: name of equipment’s manufacturer
- Type of equipment: type/model of equipment, or series of equipment if there is no difference in maintenance and examination

The specification of the model or series in the competency certificate should be left to each manufacturer or service supplier who retains the responsibility for the certification process of service personnel.

Recommendation

Ship managers, owners and shipyards are encouraged to prepare for the new requirements by establishing an overview of authorized service providers in relevant areas prior to the entering into force on 1 January 2020.

Owners and operators must ensure that all required thorough examinations, operational tests, overhaul and repair of equipment are carried out by personnel certified by an authorized service provider in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) for each make and type/model of equipment to be worked on as described before.

For the five-year inspection, the approval certificate of the authorized service provider shall be recorded or attached to the survey statement issued by the relevant RO authorized by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Adequate dissemination of this information within your company and to the Masters of Luxembourg flagged vessels should be ensured.



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for maritime affairs