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SLS.14/Circ.499  
21 May 2013

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

**Equivalent arrangements accepted under regulation I/5**

**Extended servicing intervals for inflatable liferafts**

**Communication by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in respect of equivalent arrangements concerning the approval of extended service intervals for inflatable liferafts, accepted in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS regulations III/4 and III/20.8.3.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.



17<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Mr. Koji Sekimizu  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR

Dear Secretary-General,

**Approval of Liferafts with Extended Service Intervals in accordance with SOLAS Ch. III, Regulation 4 and Ch. III, regulation 20.8.3**

The Antigua and Barbuda Flag Administration has approved a number of liferafts designed for extended service intervals and which have been tested and evaluated by a recognised organization acting on behalf of the marine administration of Antigua and Barbuda in accordance with the guidelines in MSC.1/Circ 1328.

The approved rafts are manufactured by Survitec Group Ltd and Viking Life-Saving Equipment A/S and are described in the attached description. The approval is subject to the conditions for examination and servicing set out in SOLAS Ch.III regulation 20.8.3 and in the MSC Circular.

The administration of Antigua and Barbuda would like now to notify the organization as required by SOLAS Chapter III regulation 20.8.5 in accordance with Chapter I, regulation 5(b).

Yours faithfully,

Ambassador Dwight C. R. Gardiner

Permanent Representative to the IMO for Antigua and Barbuda

Liferafts approved by the marine administration of Antigua and Barbuda for extended service intervals.

**Survitec Group Ltd. inflatable life rafts with the following description:**

Davit launched canopied liferafts:

12 persons, 16 persons, 20 persons, 25 persons davit launched canopied Surviva Mk. IV inflatable liferaft packaged for extended service intervals – Type “RFD Endura R” and also designated as type:

“Survitec ESR”, “DSB 1.R07E” “Survitec Zodiac ESP” “Crewsaver ESR” and “Elliot ESR”

Throw over/roll over canopied liferafts:

6 person, 8 person, 10 person, 12 person, 16 person, 20 person, 25 person throw-over / roll over canopied Surviva MkIV inflatable rafts packaged for extended service intervals – Type “RFD Endura R” and also designated as type:

“Survitec ESR”, DSB 1.R07E” “Survitec Zodiac ESP”, “Crewsaver ESP” and “Elliot ESR”

These liferafts have been tested by Lloyds Register EMEA in accordance with SOLAS 74, Chapter III, Regulations 4, 20.8.3 and 34, and Chapter X, Regulation 3 and MSC.1/Circ.1328 as evidenced by certificates: MED 1250185/M1, MED 1250183/M1, MED 1250190/M1 and MED 1250191/M1.

These liferafts are hermetically sealed in a foil bag within a moisture controlled envelope and enclosed in GRP container. The status of the atmosphere within the envelope can be verified at anytime. The liferafts include means to evaluate the humidity level and to detect any leakage of inflation gas behind the protective barrier during the annual onboard inspection in accordance with MSC.1/Circ. 1328.

**Viking Life-saving equipment A/S inflatable liferafts with the following description:**

Davit launched inflatable liferafts with the following type designations

12 DKF+S30, 16 DKF+S30, 20 DKF+S30,  
20 DKF+GNS30, 25 DKF+S30 and 35 DKF+S30

Throw overboard inflatable liferafts with the following type designations:

6 DKNS30, 10 DKN S30  
6 DK+S30, 8 DK+S30, 10 DK+S30, 12 DK+S30,  
16 DK+S30, 20 DK+S30, 25 DK+S30 and 35 DK+S30

These liferafts have been tested by DNV in accordance with SOLAS 74 as amended, Chapter III, Regulation 4, 13 21, 26, 31, 34 and Chapter X Regulation 3, the LSA Code, IMO MSC/Circ. 811 and 2000 HSC Code 8 as evidenced by certificates MED-B-8085 and MED-B-7380

Prototype tests and test reports in accordance with the Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, IMO Res. MSC 81(70) part 1, including IMO Res. MSC 226(82), MSC 295(87) and MSC.323 (89), have been witnessed and evaluated by a Recognised Organisation recognised by Antigua and Barbuda for all of these rafts and found to be in compliance and the Maritime Administration of Antigua and Barbuda has accepted the test reports and evaluations carried out by those recognised organisations. .

Tests and reports in accordance with new test requirements listed in MSC.1/Circ 1328 item 5.4.2 - 5.4.10 for 25 DKFS+S30 have been witnessed by DNV surveyor and evaluated and found to be in compliance (test report item 5.4.4 dd. 2009-09-01, item 5.4.6 dd. 2009-10-29, item 5.4.7 dd. 2009-10-28, item 5.4.8- 5.4.10 dd. 2009-11-02/2009-11-04) and the test reports and evaluations are accepted by the Marine Administration of Antigua and Barbuda.

#### **Conditions under which extended servicing intervals have been accepted**

1. These Liferrafts are designed to be serviced at extended intervals not exceeding 30 months for the first 10 years of their service lives, and thereafter at the frequency required by SOLAS Regulation III/20.8.1.1
2. The service of the liferafts are to undertaken only at approved servicing stations which have been duly authorized and appointed for this purpose by Survitec Group Ltd and Viking Life-Saving Equipment A/S respectively subject to the following:
  - a. The liferafts shall be inspected onboard in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at monthly intervals as required by SOLAS Regulation III/20.7
  - b. The Liferrafts shall be checked onboard in accordance with SOLAS Ch. III Regulation 20.8.3.2 at intervals in accordance with SOLAS Ch. III Regulation 20.8.1.1, and with MSC.1/Circ.1328 and the manufacturer's instructions by personnel trained and certificated by the liferafts manufacturer
  - c. The supplied log card should be completed with the persons Certificate of Competence number and the container label then being indelibly updated to display the date of the next annual inspection
3. Liferrafts which are specially packed shall be repacked at each service using new packing material within the GRP container
4. Gas Cylinders shall be of an approved type. Components in the gas inflation system should be approved according to ISO 15738:2002. If the periodic onboard inspection reveals a loss of inflation gas; the liferafts should undergo a full service immediately. If excess humidity is present, the liferafts should be serviced and repacked within three months of the date of the onboard inspection
5. Regular service intervals according to SOLAS Ch. III Regulation 20.8.1 shall be followed when the age of the liferafts exceeds 10 years

6. All servicing test prescribed in IMO Resolution A761(18) to be carried out, according to the age of the liferafts, during the period of the elapsed extended service interval will be carried out by the service station prior to repacking.
  7. Monitoring onboard consist of regularly checking of the humidity and CO<sub>2</sub> level by means of a special sensor, and completion of an inspection log card which remains aboard the ship; as indicated in the equipment type approval equipment.
  8. Ships equipped with liferafts specially packed above will comply with SOLAS 74, Chapter III, Regulation 19.4.3 by carrying aboard, or having ready access to, a conventionally packed training raft of similar type and means of operation, or by carrying a visual training aid which can simulate inflation and davit launching of such a liferafts.
  9. The product is to be indelibly marked with the name of the manufacturer, type designation and date of manufacturer. The marking shall comply with the LSA Code (IMO Res. MSC 48 (66) Item 4.2.6 and 4.2.7
  10. In addition to the other required marks, the outer container of specially packed Endura liferafts under extended servicing scheme shall carry the following labels;
    - a. The RFD 'Endura 'Liferafts have been designed and manufactured in accordance with the SOLAS 1996 amendments, Regulations III/20 paragraph 8.3 and the IMO HSC 2000 Code, Chapter 8 paragraph 8.9.9, which permits extended service intervals of 30 months
    - b. To comply with this, the liferafts must be inspected onboard by personnel trained and certificated for such purpose by Survitec Group Ltd. at intervals not exceeding 12 months from the last service or onboard inspection and for the first 10 years of their service life. The record of inspection must be entered on an inspection log card
    - c. The life raft must be serviced at intervals not exceeding 30 months at a Survitec Group Ltd. approved liferafts service station in accordance with Regulation 20, paragraph 8.1.2
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