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## **SHIPPING NOTICE NO. MACI 001/07 – TESTING OF LIFEBOATS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT**

**THIS NOTICE OUTLINES THE POLICY OF THE MARITIME AUTHORITY OF  
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS (MACI) ON IMPLEMENTING THE REQUIREMENTS  
OF MSC.1/Circ.1206**

THIS NOTICE IS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT:

- SERVICE PROVIDERS PROVIDING SERVICES TO CAYMAN ISLAND SHIPS;
- OWNERS, MANAGERS OR OPERATORS OF CAYMAN ISLAND SHIPS, OR THEIR AGENTS;
- MASTERS OF CAYMAN ISLANDS SHIPS;
- CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY SURVEYORS.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On 26 May 2006, IMO adopted MSC.1/Circ.1206 on Measures to Prevent Accidents with Lifeboats. Included with this circular are a number of guidelines with the objective of establishing a uniform, safe and documented process for periodic servicing and maintaining lifeboats, launching appliances and on load release gear.
- 1.2 Since the adoption of this circular a number of difficulties have been experienced in complying with the required testing of this equipment. Experience has shown that this is especially relevant when the testing is required to be carried out either by, or in the presence of, the manufacturer. In many cases the original manufacturer is no longer in business, in others the manufacturer does not support a worldwide association of service agents.
- 1.3 Recognizing these difficulties, IMO again debated the subject in December 2006 at MSC 82. IMO concluded that MSC.1/Circ.1206 will remain non-mandatory until a comprehensive network of competent and capable service suppliers can be identified and appropriately approved. This goal is expected to be achieved by 2010. At that time IMO will make mandatory provisions for the servicing and testing of lifeboats and their associated equipment.
- 1.4 Until such mandatory provisions enter force, this Shipping Notice sets out the Cayman Islands policy to give effect to the current guidelines, as requested in operative paragraph 7 of MSC.1/Circ.1206.
- 1.5 As the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO and its various sub committees will meet several times before the development of the provisions are finalized and made mandatory, the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry will regularly review this Shipping Notice to ensure that its contents remain both relevant and appropriate.

**2. Application**

- 2.1 This shipping notice applies to all Cayman Islands ships which are subject to chapter III of the SOLAS Convention.
- 2.2 All Cayman Islands ships to which this notice applies are required to have the their lifeboats and associated equipment serviced and maintained in accordance with this Shipping Notice not later than the first survey of the safety equipment after 01 July 2007.

**3. General Requirements for Maintenance and Testing**

- 3.1 Where this Shipping Notice makes reference to a “manufacturer” the term also includes service personnel certificated in accordance with paragraph 10 of Annex 1 to MSC.1/Circ.1206.
- 3.2 When the manufacturer is not available to conduct the maintenance and testing required by MSC.1/Circ.1206, the company may elect to utilize the services of an acceptable alternative service supplier. Annex 1 of this Shipping Notice gives particulars of the parameters to be met with respect to alternative service providers in order for that supplier to be acceptable to MACI.
- 3.3 Where this Shipping Notice requires any test to be witnessed by a Classification Society, the company may utilize any Classification Society recognized by MACI. This Classification Society need not be the Society which classes the ship or has issued the Safety Equipment Certificate.
- 3.4 The Classification Society witnessing a test is only required to endorse test reports or certificates “as witnessed”. Such an endorsement does not infer any approval of the test procedures used or confer any acceptance of the test results.
- 3.5 Should a Classification Society have reservations as to the conduct of the test being in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 or to the outcome of the test itself, it may decline to endorse the test report or certificate and in such cases inform MACI of their reservations.
- 3.6 The minimum information that must be contained in any test report or certificate is included in Appendix 2 of this Shipping Notice.
- 3.7 No Safety Equipment Certificate will be endorsed for annual or periodical survey unless there is documented evidence onboard to show that the annual tests required by this Shipping Notice have been carried out within 12 months prior to the completion of the annual or periodical survey.
- 3.8 No Safety Equipment Certificate will be renewed unless there is documented evidence onboard to show that the annual tests have been carried out within 12 months and the five yearly tests required by this Shipping Notice have been carried out within 36 months prior to the completion of renewal survey.
- 3.9 No specific authorizations are required from the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry for either a service supplier to conduct any maintenance or testing, or for the attendance of a Cayman Islands recognized Classification Society. It

is the responsibility of the company to arrange the attendance of suitable service suppliers and Classification Societies as may be required.

- 3.10 Maintenance and test requirements of MSC.1/Circ.1206 or SOLAS III/20 which are not further detailed in this Shipping Notice can be carried out in accordance with the requirements of that circular by ship's staff, with an appropriate entry made in the ship's Official Log Book or in the *log for records of inspections and maintenance* required by SOLAS III/36.7, as may be appropriate.
- 3.11 Any repairs to lifeboats and their equipment should be carried out under the survey of the ship's Classification Society. All replacement parts should be approved for their intended use in accordance with the requirements of SOLAS III and the LSA Code.

**4. Specific Requirements for Maintenance and Testing**

(References in brackets refer to the appropriate paragraph of Annex I to MSC.1/Circ.1206)

**4.1 Annual dynamic winch brake test. (3.1)**

- (a) To be carried out by the Manufacturer or Acceptable Service Supplier within the 12 months prior to any survey of the safety equipment.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by an Acceptable Service Provider.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**4.2 Annual test of release gear (2.5)**

- (a) To be carried out by the Manufacturer or Acceptable Service Supplier within the 12 months prior to any survey of the safety equipment.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by an Acceptable Service Provider.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**4.3 Annual operational test of on-load, off-load and free fall release functions.  
(2.6 – 2.8)**

- (a) To be carried out by Ship's Staff, Manufacturer or Acceptable Service Supplier within the 12 months prior to any survey of the safety equipment.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by other than the Manufacturer.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**4.4 Davit (2.9)**

- (a) To be carried out by Ship's Staff, Manufacturer or Acceptable Service Supplier within the 12 months prior to any survey of the safety equipment.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by other than the Manufacturer.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**4.5 Winch (2.10)**

- (a) To be carried out by the Manufacturer or Acceptable Service Supplier within the 12 months prior to any survey of the safety equipment.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by an Acceptable Service Provider.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**4.6 Five year dynamic winch brake test (3.2)**

- (a) To be carried out by the Manufacturer or acceptable service supplier within the 36 months prior to any survey for the renewal of the Safety Equipment Certificate.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by an Acceptable Service Provider.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**4.7 Overhaul of on-load release gear (4)**

- (a) To be carried out by the Manufacturer or acceptable service supplier within the 36 months prior to any survey for the renewal of the Safety Equipment Certificate.
- (b) To be witnessed by a Classification Society when carried out by an Acceptable Service Provider.
- (c) Records to be in accordance with Annex 2 of this Shipping Notice.

**Annex 1**

**Annex 1: Acceptable service providers.**

When the manufacturer of the equipment to be tested is not available to conduct the required tests, the company may elect to use the services of a suitable service provider. The following service suppliers are acceptable to the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry:

A manufacturer (or their approved agents) of similar SOLAS approved equipment.

A manufacturer (or their approved agents) of approved marine lifting appliances.

A recognized lifting appliance testing company. Such companies are to be approved by a Classification Society or a National Government and be acceptable to MACI.

A recognized Classification Society and their appointed sub contractor.

**Annex 2: Information to be included in test reports**

*Notes: A single report may be used for multiple tests provided the report contains all the information required for each individual test.*

*Where the serial number of any equipment is not available the report should contain sufficient detail to identify the equipment under test.*

- 1 For all testing required by this Shipping Notice:
  - a) Ships Name and IMO Number
  - b) Date of test
  - c) Place of test (port)
  - d) Entity carrying out the test(s), with name and signature of the person in charge of testing.
  - e) Entity witnessing the test(s) (if any), with name and signature of the person witnessing the test(s)
  - f) Acceptance of the test by the master or senior officer of the ship, with name, rank and signature of the person accepting the test(s).
  - g) Description of the test(s) being carried out. (SOLAS III or MSC.1/Circ.1206 reference)
  
- 2 Annual dynamic winch brake test
  - a) Make, model and serial number of winch brake under test.
  - b) Approximate mass of lifeboat / rescue boat when empty.
  - c) Mass used for test (if different from above)
  - d) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the brake being fit to continue service (or otherwise).
  
- 3 Annual test of release gear
  - a) Make model and serial number of release gear.
  - b) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the release gear being fit to continue service (or otherwise)
  
- 4 Operational test of on-load release function (including free fall lifeboats)
  - a) Make model and serial number of release gear.
  - b) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the on-load release function being fit to continue service (or otherwise).
  
- 5 Davit Test
  - a) Make, model and serial number of davit

- b) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the davit being fit to continue service (or otherwise).
- 6 Winch
- a) Make, model and serial number of winch
  - b) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the winch being fit to continue service (or otherwise).
- 7 Five year dynamic winch brake test
- a) Make, model and serial number of winch brake
  - b) Approximate mass of lifeboat or rescue boat when loaded with its full compliment of persons and equipment.
  - c) Mass used for test
  - d) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the winch brake being fit to continue service (or otherwise).
- 8 Overhaul of on-load release gear
- a) Make, model and serial number of on-load release gear.
  - b) NDE techniques employed during examination.
  - c) Mass used for operational test in accordance with SOLAS III/20.11.2.3.
  - d) Result of test and statement as to the test being conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1206 and the on-load release gear being fit to continue service (or otherwise).