

Clarification of SOLAS Regulation III/19.3.3.3 offered by IMO

To all surveyors, auditors, shipping companies :

According to the clarification of SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3 in MSC.1/Circ.1326, the testing of launching and manoeuvring in the water of each lifeboat, at least once every three months during an abandon ship drill, whilst requiring each lifeboat to be manoeuvred in the water by its assigned operating crew, does not require the assigned operating crew to be on board lifeboat during launching, unless the master, within the authority conferred to him by the ISM Code, taking into account all safety aspects, considers that the lifeboat should be launched with the assigned operating crew on board.

Based on the abovementioned clarifications, the assigned operating crew may launch to the water via the pilot ladder or by any other safe ways, and then board and manoeuvre the lifeboat, after its non-load launching to the water.

All ship's masters are kindly advised to take into consideration of this clarification whilst applying the requirements of SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3.

Classed Ship in Service Department
CHINA CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY

Attachment: MSC.1/Circ.1326



IMO

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Ref. T4/3.01

MSC.1/Circ.1326

11 June 2009

CLARIFICATION OF SOLAS REGULATION III/19

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009), having considered a recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-second session, agreed that there was a need to clarify the application of SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3.

2 SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3 requires each lifeboat to be launched, and manoeuvred in the water by its assigned operating crew, at least once every three months during an abandon ship drill. However, the regulation, whilst requiring each lifeboat to be manoeuvred in the water by its assigned operating crew, does not require the assigned operating crew to be on board when the lifeboat is launched.

3 The Committee, therefore, agreed that the assigned operating crew should not be required to be on board lifeboats during launching, unless the master, within the authority conferred to him by paragraph 5.5 of the ISM Code, considered, taking into account all safety aspects, that the lifeboat should be launched with the assigned operating crew on board.

4 Member Governments are invited to use the above clarification when applying the requirements of SOLAS regulation III/19, and bring it to the attention of all parties concerned and, in particular, port State control officers.