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Issue:
Life Saving Appliances on Special Purpose Ships (SPS)

The purpose of this circular is to clarify some matters related to life - saving appliances to be carried on ships carrying a large number of "Special Personnel" on board who are specially needed for the particular operation duties of the ship and are in addition to the normal crew.

The NMD has made following guidelines to be followed with regards to the life-saving appliances on ships carrying a large number of "Special Personnel" on board:

Nos. of "Special purpose" personnel	Ships length in m	Additional requirements	Carrying capacity of fully enclosed lifeboats on each side	Carrying capacity of liferafts
50 or less	Less than 85	None		100% each side ¹
50 or less	More than 85	None	100%	100% ²
50 or less	More than 85	Damage stability ³	50 %	100% each side. The liferafts shall be served by launching appliances
51 to 200	Regardless of length	Damage stability ³	50%	100% each side. The liferafts shall be served by launching appliances
201 and over	Shall be certified as passenger ships on international voyages			

¹ If not possible to transfer from side to side each side to have 150% capacity

² If not possible to transfer from side to side each side to have 100% capacity

³ Damage stability in accordance with IMO Res. A534(13)

Clarification:

Cargo ships < 85m in length with less than 50 "Special Personnel" on board shall carry lifeboats and liferafts in accordance to SOLAS 74/96 III/31.1.1. In lieu of lifeboats the ship may carry liferafts in accordance to III/31.1.3.

Cargo ships > 85m in length with less than 50 "Special Personnel" on board shall carry lifeboats and liferafts in accordance to SOLAS 74/96 III/31.1.1 or III/31.1.2.

Cargo ships > 85m in length with less than 50 "Special Personnel" on board shall carry lifeboats and liferafts in accordance to SOLAS 74/96 III/31.1.1 or III/31.1.2. If the ship complies with the said damage stability requirements it may carry totally enclosed lifeboats on each side as will accommodate at least 50% of the total number of persons on board. In addition the ship shall carry liferafts on each side with capacity as will accommodate the total number of persons on board. The liferafts shall be served by launching appliances.

Cargo ships regardless of length with 51-200 "Special Personnel" on board shall carry lifeboats and liferafts in accordance with SOLAS 74/96 III/31.1.1 or III/31.1.2. If the ship complies with the said damage stability requirements it may carry totally enclosed lifeboats on each side as will accommodate at least 50% of the total number of persons on board. In addition the ship shall carry liferafts on each side with capacity as will accommodate the total number of persons on board. The liferafts shall be served by launching appliances.

All cargo ships regardless of the above shall carry Rescue boat in accordance with Reg. III/31.2.

Ships regardless of length that carries more than 200 "Special Personnel" on board shall meet the requirements of passenger ships and be certified as such.

Upon compliance with the above requirements, cargo ships with 50% lifeboat capacity on each side shall carry a SOLAS Exemption Certificate issued by the classification society with the following text under "conditions":

May carry enclosed lifeboats on each side of such aggregate capacity as will accommodate at least 50% of the total number of persons on board. In addition the ship shall carry liferafts on each side of such aggregate capacity as will accommodate at least 100% of the total number of persons on board. The liferafts shall be served by launching appliances on each side. The stability requirements of Ch. 2.2 of IMO Res. A.534(13) have been complied with.

Further, please be advised that the NMD has provided the IMO with a notification of acceptance of this equivalent arrangement in accordance with the provisions of Regulation I/5 of the Convention.
