Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

Circular - Series V

Circular recipients: (check box)

- ☐ Sdir: Norwegian Maritime Authority
- ☐ A: 16 specially authorised employment offices
- ☐ U: Selected foreign service missions
- ☐ P: Equipment manufacturers, any subgroups
- ☐ OFF: Offshore companies / OIM / operators
- ☐ Hov: Main organisations
- ☐ Others:

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ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE PROVIDERS CARRYING OUT MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL TESTING, ETC. OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR

This guidance Circular supersedes RSV 05-2020 and has been updated to include mobile offshore units as a target group under item 1.

The Circular provides information on how the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has implemented parts of IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) on requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.

On 19 May 2016, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted Resolution MSC. 404(96) on amendments to SOLAS. This resolution amends, inter alia, SOLAS Chapter III regulation 20 – Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections. It also introduces a new definition in SOLAS Chapter III regulation 3.

IMO Resolution MSC.404(96) has been incorporated into Norwegian legislation by a reference in Regulations of 18 December 2019 No. 1988, amending section 2 of the Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 1019 on life-saving appliances on ships. The amendment entered into force on 1 January 2020.
For mobile offshore units, reference is made to SOLAS Chapter III regulation 20, cf. regulation 3.25 of the Regulations of 2 February 2016 No. 90 on evacuation and life-saving appliances on mobile offshore units section 36.

1. Target group for this Circular

This Circular is intended for service providers offering maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances

and release gear. The Circular also applies to companies operating mobile offshore units or ships holding:

1.1. an International Passenger Ship Safety Certificate, cf. Regulations of 22 December 2014 No. 1893 on qualifications and certificates for seafarers (Certificate Regulations) section 6;

1.2. a Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, cf. section 8 second paragraph of the Certificate Regulations;

1.3. a Passenger Certificate, cf. section 20 first paragraph of the Certificate Regulations:

1.4. a Trading Certificate, cf. section 24 of the Certificate Regulations.

2. SOLAS regulation III/20 – Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections

SOLAS regulation III/20.11 addresses the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear. Reference is made below to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.5,

which reads:

"The thorough examination, operational testing and overhaul required by paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4 and the maintenance and repair of equipment specified in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4 shall be carried out in accordance with the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair, and the instructions for onboard maintenance as required by regulation 36."

2.1. SOLAS regulation III/20.11.5 refers to *"[...] requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair [...]"*. This expression is defined in SOLAS regulation III/3.25.

The definition reads:

"Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair means the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization by resolution MSC.402(96), as may be amended by the Organization, provided that such amendments are adopted, brought into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of article VIII of the present Convention concerning the amendment procedures applicable to the annex other than chapter I."

2.2. Pursuant to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.5, the relevant parts of Resolution MSC.402(96) must therefore be complied with, including section 3 of the resolution, which requires that the activities described in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 be carried out by personnel who are either certified by the manufacturer of the life-saving appliances or by a service provider authorised to carry out maintenance of life-saving appliances.

3. Certification of personnel

Activities required under Resolution MSC.402(96) paragraphs 6.2 (*Annual thorough examination and operational test*) and 6.3 (*Five-year thorough examination, overhaul and overload operational tests*) shall be carried out by personnel certified either by:

3.1. the manufacturer of the life-saving appliances and associated equipment; or

3.2. an authorised service provider.[1]

[1] A ship management company authorised in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 7 of Resolution MSC.402(96) may carry out annual thorough examinations and operational tests, cf. paragraph 6.2 of Resolution MSC.402(96).

4. Authorisation of service providers

4.1. A service provider that can demonstrate compliance with the requirements set out in paragraph 7.1 of Resolution MSC.402(96) may be authorised by the Administration (flag State).

A flag State may accept service providers authorised by other flag States or by their Recognised Organisations, cf. paragraph 7.4.3 of MSC.402(96).

The NMA will not itself carry out the authorisation of service providers in Norway (see items 4.2 and 5 below).

4.2. Companies may use service providers authorised by either:

4.2.1. one of the organisations recognised by the NMA:

- American Bureau of Shipping (ABS);
- Bureau Veritas (BV);
- Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK);
- DNV AS;
- Lloyd' s Register (LR);
- RINA S.p.A (RINA); or

4.2.2. a flag State included on the Paris MoU White List, as published and updated by the Paris MoU Secretariat.

4.3. The legal basis for the NMA's acceptance is set out in section 2 of the Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 1019 on life-saving appliances on ships, cf. SOLAS regulation III/20.11.5, cf. Resolution MSC.402(96) paragraph 7.4.3.

5. Procedure for obtaining authorisation as a service provider

Service providers seeking authorisation in Norway in accordance with Resolution MSC.402(96) may contact one of the recognised organisations listed above.

6. Information on authorised service providers

Information on service providers accepted by the Norwegian Maritime Authority and offering services in Norway relating to the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear is available on the NMA's website.

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