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SLS.14/Circ.576
15 September 2015

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

Equivalent arrangements accepted under regulation I/5

Extended service intervals for inflatable liferafts

Communication by the Government of the United Kingdom

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by the Government of the United Kingdom in respect of equivalent arrangements for the servicing of inflatable liferafts, accepted under regulation I/5 of the above Convention.

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



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

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1 September 2015

Dear *Secretary-General*

Approval of Extended Service Intervals for Inflatable Liferafts According to IMO Guidelines MSC.1/Circ.1328

I have the honour to inform you that the United Kingdom has accepted equivalent arrangements for the servicing of inflatable liferafts in accordance with Chapter III regulation 4 and 20.8.3 the International Convention for the Safety of Life as Sea, 1974 as amended.

Please be advised that acceptance of these equivalent arrangements is extended to the United Kingdom Overseas Territories of Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Anguilla, Falklands Islands, Montserrat St Helena, and the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United Kingdom Crown Dependencies of Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey.

Details of the equivalent arrangements are attached.

With highest assurances,

Katy Ware
Permanent Representative of the UK to the IMO



HM Coastguard



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SURVITEC SAS inflatable liferafts, other trademarks: "SURVITEC, CREWSAVER, ELLIOT, DSB, SURVITECZODIAC, RFD" are packed for extended service intervals. The packing consists of hermetically sealed and desiccated, hermetically sealed pouch within a GRP outer container

<u>Product description:</u>	<u>Capacity:</u>
1. Inflatable liferafts - Davit-launched	8,12,16,20,25, 37
2. Inflatable liferafts - Throw-over	6,8,12,10,16,20,25,37,50
3. Automatically Self-righting davit launched liferafts	25,37
4. Automatically Self-righting liferafts; throw-over self-righting	6,8,10,12,25,37,50,100,150
5. Open reversible Liferafts - HSC pack	30,50,100
6. Open reversible liferafts - HSCR	6,10,20,100,151

The above liferafts are approved by Bureau Veritas in accordance with requirements of SOLAS 74 as amended, Chapter III regulations 4, 13, 21, 26, 31 & 34, and Chapter X regulation 3, MSC.48(66) as amended by MSC.218(82), MSC.272(85), MSC.293(87) and MSC.320(89), MSC. 36(63) – 8 and MSC.97(73) – (2000 HSC) 8, MSC/Circ.811&980, IMO res. MSC81(70), amended by MSC.200(80), MSC.226(82), MSC.274(85), MSC.295(87), MSC.321(89) & MSC.323(89).

These liferafts also hold EC-Type Examination Certificates in compliance with Council Directive 96/98/EC of 20 December 1996 on marine Equipment as amended.

In addition the liferafts have successfully passed tests described in MSC.1/Circ.1328 of 11 June 2009 on "Guidelines for the approval of inflatable liferafts subject to extended service intervals not exceeding 30 months"

Conditions under which extended servicing intervals have been approved:

1. Servicing will be carried out at 30 month maximum intervals, only at approved servicing stations which have additionally been appointed for this purpose by SURVITEC SAS.

2. As long as the hermetic seal has not been compromised, the 30 month service intervals will apply for the first 10 years of their service lives, and thereafter at the frequency required by SOLAS regulation III/20.8.1.1. Hermetic seal verification must be performed at maximum intervals of 12 months from the date of last service. This is done on board the ship according to the manufacturer's instruction for on board inspection.

If the seal verification reveals loss of hermetic seal for any reason the raft shall be serviced and repacked within 3 months, or 30 months from repacking if sooner.

3. SURVITEC SAS will provide MCA with results of comparative study on the ageing of liferaft fabric and pressure seams, using material samples variously exposed, and tested at 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 10 years of age.

4. At service, a new packing material of the hermetically sealed pouch within the GRP outer container must be used in case of signs of degradation, abrasion or other wear and tear that will affect the quality, purpose and lifespan of the packing material.

5. All servicing tests prescribed in IMO Resolution A.761(18) which would have been carried out during the period of the extended service interval will be carried out by the service station at the next service after the nominal "due date" of that test.

6. Monitoring on board is to be undertaken by qualified persons who have been adequately trained and certificated by the liferaft manufacturer and they shall check the humidity level and possible CO2 leakages based on instructions supplied by the manufacturer. All readings are recorded and kept aboard with the liferaft certificate for documentation and inspection purposes.

7. Passenger ships equipped with liferafts specially packed as above will comply with SOLAS regulation III/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 liferafts.

8. In addition to other required marks, the outer containers of specially packed SURVITEC SAS liferafts within the extended servicing scheme carry the following label with following information/should be marked with the following label:

1. This liferaft is permitted for extended service intervals of 30 month at an approved service station. This is only applicable to the liferafts of less than 10 years of age.
2. The liferaft must be inspected on board by a person certified for such purpose by SURVITEC SAS at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

This equivalent arrangement is similar to one already notified to the organization by the Government of the United Kingdom under SLS.14/Circ.318.