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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 170415.GEN

17 April 2015

Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

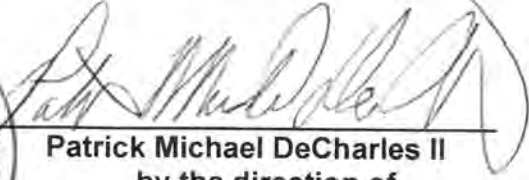
**EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAS REGULATION XI-1/7 ON ATMOSPHERE TESTING INSTRUMENT FOR ENCLOSED SPACES**

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted SOLAS regulation III/19.3.6.2.3 relating to enclosed space entry and rescue drills, by Resolution MSC.350(92).
2. The MSC at its ninety-third session confirmed that regulation III/19.3.6.2.3 does not introduce carriage requirements for atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces.
3. The MSC at its ninety-fourth session, in adopting Resolution MSC.380(94) recognized the need to implement the new SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 early in order to expedite the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instruments. MSC/Circ.1485 invited SOLAS Contracting Governments to voluntarily implement SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 to ships under their flags, as soon as practicable, taking into account that the entry-into-force date of the corresponding amendment to SOLAS is 1 July 2016.
4. In view of the testing of atmosphere of enclosed spaces is critical for the safe entry by ship crew and the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instrument introduced by regulation XI-1/7 is essential to satisfying the requirement of regulation III/19.3.6.2.3, Vanuatu Maritime Services has decided to implement regulation XI-1/7 early. Vanuatu registered vessels to which SOLAS Regulations apply, shall implement regulation XI-1/7 as soon as possible but no later than 1 July 2015.
5. Shipowners should take into consideration MSC.1/Circ.1477 *"Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed*

spaces as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7", when selecting portable atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces as required by regulation XI-1/7.

6. Recognized Organizations have been separately instructed to verify compliance onboard Vanuatu registered ships when carrying out the first survey relating to the Safety Equipment Certificate after 1 July 2015.



  
Patrick Michael DeCharles II  
by the direction of  
The Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs  
The Republic of Vanuatu

**ANNEX 1**

**RESOLUTION MSC.380(94)  
(adopted on 21 November 2014)**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA (SOLAS), 1974, AS AMENDED**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO article VIII(b)(vi)(2) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 ("the Convention"), concerning the amendment procedure applicable to the annex to the Convention, other than to the provisions of chapter I,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its ninety-fourth session, amendments to the Convention, proposed and circulated in accordance with article VIII(b)(i) thereof,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the Convention, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the Convention, that the said amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 January 2016 unless, prior to that date, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have notified to the Secretary-General of the Organization their objections to the amendments;

3 INVITES SOLAS Contracting Governments to note that, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vii)(2) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 July 2016 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article VIII(b)(v) of the Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Contracting Governments to the Convention; and

5 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization which are not Contracting Governments to the Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE  
SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA (SOLAS), 1974, AS AMENDED**

**CHAPTER II-2  
CONSTRUCTION – PROTECTION, FIRE DETECTION AND FIRE EXTINCTION**

**Part C  
Suppression of fire**

**Regulation 10 – Fire fighting**

1 The title of existing paragraph 5.2 is replaced as follows:

**"5.2 Machinery spaces of category A containing internal combustion machinery"**

**CHAPTER VI  
CARRIAGE OF CARGOES AND OIL FUELS**

**Part A  
General Provisions**

**Regulation 2 – Cargo information**

2 The following new paragraphs 4 to 6 are added after existing paragraph 3:

"4 In the case of cargo carried in a container<sup>\*</sup>, except for containers carried on a chassis or a trailer when such containers are driven on or off a ro-ro ship engaged in short international voyages as defined in regulation III/3, the gross mass according to paragraph 2.1 of this regulation shall be verified by the shipper, either by:

- .1 weighing the packed container using calibrated and certified equipment; or
- .2 weighing all packages and cargo items, including the mass of pallets, dunnage and other securing material to be packed in the container and adding the tare mass of the container to the sum of the single masses, using a certified method approved by the competent authority of the State in which packing of the container was completed.

5 The shipper of a container shall ensure the verified gross mass<sup>\*\*</sup> is stated in the shipping document. The shipping document shall be:

- .1 signed by a person duly authorized by the shipper; and
- .2 submitted to the master or his representative and to the terminal representative sufficiently in advance, as required by the master or his representative, to be used in the preparation of the ship stowage plan<sup>\*\*\*</sup>.

6 If the shipping document, with regard to a packed container, does not provide the verified gross mass and the master or his representative and the terminal representative have not obtained the verified gross mass of the packed container, it shall not be loaded on to the ship.

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\* The term "container" should be considered as having the same meaning as defined and applied in the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972, as amended, taking into account the *Guidelines for the approval of offshore containers handled in open seas* (MSC/Circ.860) and the *Revised recommendations on harmonized interpretation and implementation of the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972, as amended* (CSC.1/Circ.138/Rev.1).

\*\* Refer to the *Guidelines regarding the verified gross mass of a container carrying cargo* (MSC.1/Circ.1475).

\*\*\* This document may be presented by means of EDP or EDI transmission techniques. The signature may be an electronic signature or may be replaced by the name, in capitals, of the person authorized to sign."

## CHAPTER XI-1 SPECIAL MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SAFETY

3 The following new regulation 7 is added after existing regulation 6:

### **"Regulation 7 – Atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces**

Every ship to which chapter I applies shall carry an appropriate portable atmosphere testing instrument or instruments\*. As a minimum, these shall be capable of measuring concentrations of oxygen, flammable gases or vapours, hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide prior to entry into enclosed spaces\*\*. Instruments carried under other requirements may satisfy this regulation. Suitable means shall be provided for the calibration of all such instruments.

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\* Refer to the *Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7* (MSC.1/Circ.1477).

\*\* Refer to the *Revised recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships* (resolution A.1050(27))."

**APPENDIX**  
**CERTIFICATES**

**Record of Equipment for Cargo Ship Safety (Form C)**  
**Record of Equipment for Cargo Ship Safety (Form E)**

4 Section 2 of the Record of Equipment for Cargo Ship Safety (Form C) and the Record of Equipment for Cargo Ship Safety (Form E), is replaced with the following:

"2 ***Details of life-saving appliances***

1 Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided .....		Port Side	Starboard Side
2	Total number of davit launched lifeboats	.....	.....
2.1	Total number of persons accommodated by them	.....	.....
2.2	Number of self-righting partially enclosed lifeboats (regulation III/43 <sup>1</sup> )	.....	.....
2.3	Number of totally enclosed lifeboats (regulation III/31 and LSA Code, section 4.6)	.....	.....
2.4	Number of lifeboats with a self-contained air support system (regulation III/31 and LSA Code, section 4.8)	.....	.....
2.5	Number of fire-protected lifeboats (regulation III/31 and LSA Code, section 4.9)	.....	.....
2.6	Other lifeboats	.....	.....
2.6.1	Number	.....	.....
2.6.2	Type	.....	.....
3	Total number of free-fall lifeboats	.....	.....
3.1	Total number of persons accommodated by them	.....	.....
3.2	Number of totally enclosed lifeboats (regulation III/31 and LSA Code, section 4.7)	.....	.....
3.3	Number of lifeboats with a self-contained air support system (regulation III/31 and LSA Code, section 4.8)	.....	.....
3.4	Number of fire-protected lifeboats (regulation III/31 and LSA Code, section 4.9)	.....	.....
4	Number of motor lifeboats (included in the total lifeboats shown in 2 and 3 above)	.....	.....
4.1	Number of lifeboats fitted with searchlights	.....	.....
5	Number of rescue boats	.....	.....
5.1	Number of boats which are included in the total lifeboats shown in 2 and 3 above	.....	.....
6	Liferafts	.....	.....
6.1	Those for which approved launching appliances are required	.....	.....
6.1.1	Number of liferafts	.....	.....

1 Refer to the 1983 amendments to SOLAS (MSC.6(48)), applicable to ships constructed on or after 1 July 1986, but before 1 July 1998.

2 **Details of life-saving appliances** (continued)

1 Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided .....		Port Side	Starboard Side
6.1.2	Number of persons accommodated by them	.....	
6.2	Those for which approved launching appliances are not required	.....	
6.2.1	Number of liferafts	.....	
6.2.2	Number of persons accommodated by them	.....	
6.3	Number of liferafts required by regulation III/31.1.4	.....	
7	Number of lifebuoys	.....	
8	Number of lifejackets	.....	
9	Immersion suits	.....	
9.1	Total number	.....	
9.2	Number of suits complying with the requirements for lifejackets	.....	
10	Number of anti-exposure suits	.....	
11	Radio installations used in life-saving appliances	.....	
11.1	Number of search and rescue locating devices	.....	
11.1.1	Radar search and rescue transponders (SART)	.....	
11.1.2	AIS search and rescue transmitters (AIS-SART)	.....	
11.2	Number of two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus	.....	

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