



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
MINISTRY  
OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MERCHANT SHIPPING  
LIMASSOL

Circular No. 25/2013

31 October 2013

TEN 5.13.09  
TEN 4.28.03.5  
TEN 16.17.18

Recognized and Authorized Classification Societies

Registered owners, registered bareboat charterers,  
managers, operators and masters of ships flying the Cyprus flag

**Subject: Early Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, Regulation III/20.11.2**

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012), adopted, by resolution MSC.325(90), amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, (the Convention) regulation III/20.11.2, concerning the operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems.

The said amendments in accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the Convention have been accepted on 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2013 and shall enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014.

In adopting the aforementioned amendments, the Committee agreed to the recommendation by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-sixth session (13 to 17 February 2012), that parties concerned should be encouraged to implement the amendments to SOLAS Regulation III/20.11.2 at the earliest possible opportunity, prior to the entry into force of the said amendments.

Subsequently the Maritime Safety Committee issued relevant Circular (MSC.1/Circ. 1411) for the early implementation of the amendments to SOLAS Regulation III/20.11.2, which is annexed to the present Circular.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus in response to the aforementioned IMO Circular adopts the recommendation for an early implementation of the amendments with the sole aim of preventing further accidents involving lifeboats installed on Cyprus ships.

Therefore, registered owners, registered bareboat charterers, managers and operators of ships flying the Cyprus flag should implement the said amendment at the first operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems on or after the date of the issue of the present Circular.



**This Circular must be placed on board vessels flying the Cyprus flag.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrysostomou', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr. Andreas Chrysostomou  
Acting Director  
Department of Merchant Shipping

- cc: - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
  - Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
  - Cyprus Shipping Chamber
  - Cyprus Union of Shipowners
  - Cyprus Shipping Association
  - Cyprus Bar Association

**CHAPTER III  
LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS**

**Part B  
Requirements for ships and life-saving appliances**

**Regulation 20 – Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections**

2 In paragraph 11.2, the following new subparagraph .4 is added after the existing subparagraph .3:

- "4 notwithstanding subparagraph .3 above, the operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems shall be performed either by free-fall launch with only the operating crew on board or by a simulated launching carried out based on guidelines developed by the Organization\*."

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\* Refer to Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1).

**CHAPTER V  
SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**

**Regulation 14 – Ships' manning**

3 The existing paragraph 2 is replaced by the following new paragraph:

- "2 For every ship to which chapter I applies, the Administration shall:
- .1 establish appropriate minimum safe manning following a transparent procedure, taking into account the relevant guidance adopted by the Organization\* ; and
  - .2 issue an appropriate minimum safe manning document or equivalent as evidence of the minimum safe manning considered necessary to comply with the provisions of paragraph 1."

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\* Refer to the Principles of minimum safe manning, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.1047(27).

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MSC.1/Circ.1411  
29 June 2012

**EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS REGULATION III/20.11.2**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012), adopted, by resolution MSC.325(90), amendments to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.2, concerning the operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems.

2 In adopting the aforementioned amendments, the Committee agreed to the recommendation by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-sixth session (13 to 17 February 2012), that parties concerned should be encouraged to implement the amendments to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.2 at the earliest possible opportunity.

3 Member Governments and shipowners are invited to take account of this circular and bring it to the attention of all parties concerned.

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