



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 225 of 25th October 2014

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Life Saving Appliances –Immersion Suits
Reference:	SOLAS II/7.3

Life Saving Appliances –Immersion Suits

SOLAS regulation III/7.3 requires an immersion suit for every person assigned to crew the rescue boat. When the assumption is made that 3 immersion suits are acceptable for a combination lifeboat/rescue boat (the requirement for lifeboats as per Reg. III/32.3.2), the attended Surveyor to confirm that the rescue boat crew size does not exceed 3."

Where immersion suits are waived by the Administration based on Reg. III/32.3.2, evidence of waiver is to be obtained.

Amendments to SOLAS Regulation III/32.3.3 (which enter into force on 1 July 2006) will require immersion suits for all crew members. Ships built on/after 1 July 2006 will have to comply at delivery, while ships that are built before 1 July 2006, will have to comply by the first safety equipment survey after 1 July 2006. In addition, the amendment regulations will require, for "any watch or work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed, additional immersion suits shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally on watch or working at those locations at any time."

For flag states that have not issued any formal instructions concerning the additional immersion suits, the following guidance is to be followed:

The location where immersion suits are "normally stowed" is considered to be in the crews' cabins or centralized designated stores indicated in the Fire/LSA Plan, since each crew member is required to be provided with an immersion suit.

Locations that are remote of the "normally stowed" locations, should be the same locations where the additional lifejackets are positioned located to meet the requirements of SOLAS regulation III/7.2.1.2,

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e.g., the navigation bridge, engine control room, bow lookout, any additional watch station, forward and/or aft liferaft location(s), muster stations, embarkation stations, etc. The number of these remote locations and the number of persons normally occupying these locations will therefore indicate the number of additional immersion suits to be provided.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS Regulation III/7.3

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,

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