



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 761 of 5th January 2023

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Ventilation of Totally Enclosed Lifeboats
Reference	Amendments to LSA Code

Amendments to LSA Code – Ventilation of Totally Enclosed Lifeboats

The Committee approved amendments to the LSA Code and Recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances MSC amendments 81/70 will require to provide performance requirements for the ventilation of totally enclosed lifeboats. These totally enclosed lifeboats to provide a means of ventilation operable from inside the lifeboat at a rate of not less than 5 m³/hour per person, for the number of persons which the lifeboat is permitted to accommodate and for a period of at least 24 hours. Where the means of ventilation is powered, the source of power shall not be the radio batteries, and if dependent upon the lifeboat engine, then sufficient fuel shall be provided. The openings for the ventilation are to be provided with a means of closing that is operable from inside the lifeboat and positioned to minimize the ingress of water. After discussion, the Committee determined that the LSA Code amendments related to ventilation of partially enclosed lifeboats and life rafts would not be approved by the Committee at this time, but the item would remain on the agenda of the SSE sub-committee for further discussion of appropriate ventilation requirements for these survival craft types.

Corresponding amendments were approved for the Recommendations on testing of life-saving appliances (MSC.81(70)) requiring that testing of the capacity of the lifeboat's fuel tank, needed to maneuver the lifeboat at a minimum speed of 6 knots for 4 hours, must also include the fuel consumed by the powered ventilation system.

For totally enclosed lifeboats, a ventilation performance test is required with all entrances and hatches closed to confirm the ventilation rate noted above. Additionally, the lifeboat is to be incrementally rotated to an angle of heel of 180° and, upon release, the lifeboat is to return to the upright position without the assistance of its occupants.

These amendments will be subject to adoption at MSC 107 (May 2023) with an anticipated entry

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into force on **1 July 2026**. Upon their acceptance, the draft new ventilation requirements in the LSA Code will be applied to totally enclosed lifeboats installed on or after 1 January 2029, to allow ample time for Administrations and manufacturers to implement the new ventilation requirements

REFERENCES:

- Recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances MSC amendments 81/70

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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