

**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 762 of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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| To        | All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags                       |
| Title     | <b>Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance</b> |
| Reference | Guidelines Resolution A.949(23)                         |

**Revision of Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance**

The Committee approved a draft revision of the Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance, Resolution A.949(23), to support faster decision-making toward aiding ships in need of refuge. Seeking to improve upon guidance adopted in 2003, the revised guidelines incorporate lessons learned and an improved organization structure to provide clarity in the roles of the ship's master, the salvor, and the Coastal State as parties involved with ships in need of assistance:

- Expected actions of the ship's master and the managing company after a maritime incident have been revised in greater detail to acknowledge and support compliance with the ISM Code.
- For situations in which the master has relinquished command of a vessel to a salvor, the revised guidelines detail additional responsibilities of the salvor in communicating vessel condition and salvage plans to the relevant Coastal Authority.
- For Coastal States or a designated Competent Authority, revised guidance is provided on the assessment of received alerts, regional/international cooperation in providing safe refuge for distressed ships, and management of information for media / key interest groups.
- The role of the *Classification Society* is acknowledged in the revised guidelines, for support in risk assessment to preserve hull integrity and stability and preventing environmental pollution.

The revised guidelines will be subject to concurrent approval by the MEPC 79 (Dec. 2022) and LEG 110 (Mar. 2023) committee meetings before being presented to the Assembly 33 (Nov. 2023) for adoption of the revised resolution.

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REFERENCES:

- Resolution A.949(23)

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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