



**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 774 of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Thermal Performance of Immersion Suits</b>
Reference	LSA Code

**Thermal Performance of Immersion Suits**

Thermal Performance of Immersion Suits MSC 84 started to consider further work on the thermal performance of immersion suits. However, it was decided to postpone developing any amendments until additional practical work is conducted, including determining suitable thermal resistance criteria and finalizing and validating the testing methodology.

At this session, the Sub-Committee received several proposals for amendments to the LSA Code regarding the thermal performance of immersion suits and ultimately decided to update the only test forms in the Revised Standardized Life-Saving Appliance Evaluation and Test Report Forms (Personal Life-Saving Appliances) (MSC.1/Circ.1628) in connection with thermal manikin tests. Regarding low-temperature tolerance time threshold of immersion suits, the Sub-Committee agreed to the draft amendments to paragraph 3.2.3 of MSC.81(70) on thermal protective tests to include a 15-minute time frame for the thermal manikin tests. This means that a test would be stopped if the core temperature falls more than 1.5 degrees C per hour after the first half-hour, if the skin temperature of the hand, foot, or lumbar region drops below 10 degrees C for more than 15 minutes. Next Steps: The draft amendments will be presented to MSC 107 (Jun. 2023) for further consideration.

**In-Water Performance of SOLAS Lifejackets**

The Sub-Committee finalized draft amendments to Chapter II of the LSA Code, as well as consequential amendments to the Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances (Resolution MSC.81(70)) regarding the performance of life jackets in the water.

These amendments covered the following life jacket performance aspects:

- Draft amendments to the LSA Code Chapter II on the Personal Life-Saving Appliances
  - Life jackets to maintain a minimum buoyancy of 150 Newtons for the duration of the buoyancy test.
  - Life jacket to turn the body of an unconscious person to a face-up position where the nose and mouth are both clear of the water.
  - Life jacket shall be provided with a retention device to minimize their displacement from the original fitted position on the wearer when subject to dynamic forces such as waves.

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- Draft amendments to the Revised Recommendation on the testing of life-saving appliances MSC.81(70) which includes changes to the buoyancy test, shoulder lift test and the righting test.
- Consequential amendments to the lifejacket test form in the Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (Personal Life-Saving Appliances) MSC.1/Circ.1628. The draft amendments will be presented to MSC 107 (Jun. 2023) for further consideration.

REFERENCES:

- LSA Code

ATTACHMENTS: No

kindest Regards,  
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