



**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 842 of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>SOLAS Lifejackets</b>
Reference	Chapter II of the LSA Code

**Amendments to the LSA Code In-Water Performance of SOLAS Lifejackets**

Following the fatalities of three sailors while utilizing SOLAS lifejackets in favorable environmental conditions, subsequent investigations have revealed that the existing standards for the design and testing of SOLAS lifejackets do not consistently ensure their performance in water. The Committee adopted amendments to Chapter II of the LSA Code (resolution MSC.554(108)), as well as consequential amendments to the Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)) regarding the performance of lifejackets in the water (resolution MSC.563(108)). These amendments covered the following lifejacket performance aspects:

- Amendments to the LSA Code Chapter II on the Personal Life-Saving Appliances Lifejackets to maintain a minimum buoyancy of 150 Newtons for the duration of the buoyancy test. Lifejacket to turn the body of an unconscious person to a face-up position where the nose and mouth are both clear of the water. Lifejackets 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.
- 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.
- The Committee approved draft amendments to the evaluation and test report forms with respect to lifejacket's in-water performance emanating from amendments to the LSA Code and resolution MSC.81(70), MSC.1/Circ.1628/Rev.2.

Application: The entry into force date for these amendments is January 1, 2026, and are to be applied to lifesaving appliances installed on or after January 1, 2026, where the expression "installed on or after January 1, 2026, means:

- a) Ships for which the building contract is placed on or after January 1, 2026, or in the absence of the contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after January 1, 2026, all installations of the specified type on board those ships; or

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b) For ships other than those ships prescribed in (a) above, all installations of the specified type, having a contractual delivery date for the equipment or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date to the ship, actually delivered to the ship on or after January 1, 2026.

REFERENCES:

- Chapter II of the LSA Code (resolution MSC.554(108)),

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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