

SOLAS III, Reg. 17-1: Mandatory Ships Specific Plan – Recovery of Persons from Water

By this circular the FMA draws your attention to the above new SOLAS regulation, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO in November last year, now becoming effective.

New requirements

The new regulation 17-1 states:

17-1 Recovery of persons from the water

1 All ships shall have ship-specific plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water, taking into account the guidelines developed by the Organization. The plans and procedures shall identify the equipment intended to be used for recovery purposes and measures to be taken to minimize the risk to shipboard personnel involved in recovery operations. Ships constructed before 1 July 2014 shall comply with this requirement by the first periodical or renewal safety equipment survey of the ship to be carried out after 1 July 2014, whichever comes first.*

2 Ro-ro passenger ships which comply with regulation 26.4 shall be deemed to comply with this regulation.

** Reference is made to the Guidelines for the development of plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water (MSC.1/Circ.1447).*

Note I: It should be noted that the SOLAS amendment clearly states that the plans and procedures are to be “ship-specific”

Note II: The target date is the first periodical or renewal Cargo Ship Safety Equipment survey after **1st July 2014**, whichever comes first. The plans and procedures do not require approval, but will be checked as a part of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment survey.

Attached to this newsletter you find the IMO **MSC.1/Circ.1447** with guidance for the development of plans and procedures.

We recommended that owners and managers take action now for the preparation of these plans in order to have them ready by target date, taking into account the guidelines, to develop plans and procedures that relate specifically to each ship and to the facilities and equipment on board that ship.

Should you require further assistance on the lay-out of your plans, please note that some of the ROs have issued sample plans with details on how to organise the plan and which information to include.

Encl.: MSC.1/Circ.1447

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