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To <[XXXXXXX@costa.it](mailto:XXXXXXX@costa.it)>

20/10/2009  
18.19

cc <[mar@gov-madeira.pt](mailto:mar@gov-madeira.pt)>

Subject Reg.III-20 & MSC.1.CIRC.1206

Dear Mr. XXXXXX,

Following our telephone conversation, this is the understanding of our administration concerning this matter:

***“Please note the Portuguese Maritime Administration did not, until this moment, establish any procedures of how to evaluate the ability of an organization and its personnel to perform the functions of the manufacturer in relation with the guidelines included in the SOLAS Circular MSC1206.***

***Therefore, we have not endorsed any organisation under that Circular.***

***The objective of these guidelines is to increase the safety and to prevent accidents during the operation of the equipment in question and we, indeed, strongly recommend operators of Portuguese flagged ships to give them the highest consideration.***

***The SOLAS requirement is that "properly trained personnel familiar with the system" will be used to perform the annual examination and operational tests. The companies are obliged by this requirement and, consequently, they should develop procedures within their Safety Management System, to properly comply with it, taking in duly consideration, as closely as possible, existing guidelines.***

***In short, the companies have, according to the present relevant rules, the responsibility to engage the more adequate personnel/organisation to perform these examinations and tests.***

***If your company, within that responsibility, decides to use any personnel/organization, we have no objection that this annual inspection and all maintenance and repairs being carried out by that personnel/organization.”***

Should you require further assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

***Best regards,***

Paulo Camacho

(Technical Commission)

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