

Subject

Special requirements for Air Pressure Test of Immersion Suit and Anti-Exposure Suit onboard Malta flagged vessels

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0901
Date 9 April 2012

To whom it may concern

The Malta Government has noticed ClassNK of the special requirements for Intervals of Air Pressure Test of Immersion Suit and Anti-Exposure Suit onboard Malta flagged vessels.

Before this notice, the Immersion Suit and Anti-Exposure Suit are to be subjected to an air pressure test at intervals not exceeding three years.

The requirement of the air pressure test at intervals every 30 months (2 1/2 years) for suits of less than 10 years of age or every 12 months (1 year) for suits of ten years of age over are revised in this notice.

In addition Testing may be performed at a suitable shore-based facility or alternatively on board ship provided that suitable testing equipment is available. In this case, suits shall undergo an air pressure test at a shore-based facility every 60 months (5 years) are specified additionally in this notice.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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1. Administration Requirement 1.19.2

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Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

Immersion Suits and Anti-Exposure Suits			
Date Issued	8 November 2005	Section	1
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This Administration Requirement supersedes Administration Requirement 1.19.1 issued on 7 March 2008.

Reference SOLAS 74 Chapter III Regulation 32.3, as amended.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 32.3.2 cargo ships, other than bulk carriers (as defined in SOLAS 74 Chapter IX Regulation 1), may be exempted from the requirement of Regulation 32.3.2 when such ships are constantly engaged on voyages within "warm climates". Following consideration of the guidance provided in MSC/Circ 1046 – Guidelines for the Assessment of Thermal Protection, this Administration has defined the following sea areas for the scope of application of the exemption provision:

- the sea area between the parallels of latitude 30° North and 30° South;
- the sea area of the Mediterranean Sea south of latitude 35° North;
- the sea area within 20 nautical miles from the coasts of Africa not included in the sea areas above.

On ships that are required to provide every person onboard with an immersion suit complying with the requirements of the Life-Saving Appliances Code Section 2.3 there shall also be available:

- at least two additional immersion suits of the same type located in the navigating bridge
- at least two additional immersion suits of the same type located in the engine room
- at least two additional immersion suits of the same type located at workstations where the crew performs its normal duties (except watch-keeping duties); if the horizontal distance from the workstations to the stowage position of the immersion suits is more than 100 metres.

Immersion Suits may be either stored at clearly identifiable locations close to the survival craft embarkation stations or may also be distributed to each individual member of the crew.

Inspection, Testing and Repair

The monthly shipboard inspection of immersion suits and anti-exposure suits as required by SOLAS 74 Chapter III Regulation 20.7 shall take into account the guidelines approved by the Maritime Safety Committee as contained in MSC/Circ.1047

In the case of vacuum packed suits, a monthly inspection of the condition of the pack in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction will suffice. If the inspection reveals any damage to the pack, the suit must be either inspected in line with the guidance of MSC/Circ.1047 or sent for inspection and re-packing at a manufacturer approved servicing facility.



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Air pressure testing of immersion suits and anti-exposure suits, is to be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the guidance contained in MSC/Circ.1114, as applicable.

The air pressure testing of suits is to be carried out at the following intervals:

- every 30 months (2½ years) for suits of less than 10 years of age
- every 12 months (1 year) for suits of ten years of age and over

Testing may be performed at a suitable shore-based facility or alternatively on board ship provided that suitable testing equipment is available. In any case, suits shall undergo an air pressure test at a shore-based facility every 60 months (5 years).

Any repairs to suits should be carried out by a facility having trained personnel and access to the manufacturer's instructions, parts and adhesives.

Lifejackets, including lifejacket accessories, required by SOLAS 74 Chapter III Regulation 7 shall be available onboard regardless of the type of immersion suits provided.