



L I S C R

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MARINE OPERATIONS NOTE 1/2002

RE: Review of Amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the 1988 SOLAS Protocol

Dear Owner/Operator:

The IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) has produced a vast number of revisions/changes during the past two years resulting in amendments to a number of Codes, adoption of new Codes, with revisions and amendments to a large number of Regulations. Many of the revisions are highly technical in nature, and editorial/text changes incorporating past guidelines into mandatory requirements. There are several new requirements particularly to Chapter V, Safety of Navigation.

We are writing this letter in an effort to keep our owners, operators and other clients apprised of these changes. Many of the changes apply only to newly constructed ships (built after 1 July 2002), while others effect both new ships and existing ships. The following is a list of the more significant changes, including requirements for new technologies, and changes to vessel operations.

Changes include:

- Amendments to SOLAS '74, Chapters II-I, II-2, III, V, IX, and X and various associated annexes and appendixes, which will come into force 1 July 2002.
Amendment to SOLAS '74 Chapter VII, which will come into force 1 January 2003
- New Codes or amendments to Codes which will come into force 1 July, 2002:
International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures (FTP Code)
International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code)
International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code)
International Safety Management Code (ISM Code)
Guidelines on the enhanced program of inspections during surveys of bulk carriers and oil tankers (resolution A.744 (18), as amended)
Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code)
International Code of Safety for High Speed Craft, 2000 (2000 HSC Code)-New
International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code)-New

- Amendments to Codes which will come into force 1 January 2003:
INF Code
1994 High-Speed Craft Code

We have amended our Marine Notices to incorporate amendments to existing regulations particularly regarding the ISM Code, SOPEPs, and the use of digitized charts and updating services. However, there are some changes which have not yet been addressed but will be addressed by a Liberian Marine Notice when more information becomes available.

Requirements not addressed in a Marine Notice:

Changes to Chapter V, SOLAS: Two new significant changes/ additions to Chapter V, SOLAS Regulations 19 and 20 include installation/fitting of AIS and VDR's.

1. AIS-Automatic Identification System shall be installed on all ships built after 1 July 2002.

For ships built before 1 July 2002 the following dates apply:

- Passenger ships- 1 July 2003
 - Tankers not later than first (Safety Equipment Survey) after 1 July 2003
 - All other ships over 50,000 gross tons- 1 July 2004
 - Ships between 10,000 gross tons and less than 50,000 gross tons- 1 July 2005
 - Ships between 3,000 gross tons and less than 10,000 gross tons- 1 July 2006
 - Ships less than 3,000 gross tons to 300 gross tons and for cargo ships 500 gross tons- 1 July 2007
- (Note IMO is considering a proposal to advance the date of compliance for installation of AIS's to 2004 due the recent Security Initiative)

AIS-Purpose is to automatically send to shore stations (only those so equipped) other ships and aircraft, information on the ship's identity, (ship) type, position, course, speed, navigational status and other safety related information and;

- Receive such information from similarly equipped ships
- Monitor and track ships
- Exchange data with shore-based facilities

2. VDR- Voyage Data Recorder to be installed on:

- Passenger ships built after 1 July 2002
- RO/RO passenger ships built before 1 July 2002 (not later than the first Safety Equipment Survey after 1 July 2002)
- Existing passenger ships (other than RO/RO's) not later than 1 January 2004
- All other (new) ships of 3,000 GT and over built after 1 July 2002

VDR-Purpose to assist in casualty investigations.

RDF- Radio Direction Finder: Additionally, not later than the first Safety Equipment Survey after 1 July 2002, RDF equipment will no longer be required (and exemptions will no longer be necessary) provided GPS is installed.

EEBD's- Emergency Escape Breathing Devices: Liberian Flag vessels will be required to comply by 1 July 2002. A policy letter concerning this subject was distributed on 15 March 2002. If you did not receive a copy, please contact Mr. Anthony Dupree, Email: tdupree@liscr.com, and we will send you a copy.

Please see Marine Notice No. ADM-002 for listings of Codes and IMO ordering information for updates to publications. All of the current Marine Notices are available on our Web Site at www.liscr.com. Otherwise contact us directly with any questions on implementation.

Sincerely,

Captain J.P. DeLeonardis
Sr. V.P. Marine Operations