
Circular 2006/001

Immersion suits

Date: 18/6/2010

To whom it may concern,

This circular replaces circular 001/06.

The purpose of this circular is to provide instructions and clarification regarding the revised provisions of immersion suits in accordance with SOLAS 74 as amended, Chapter III, Regulation 32.3. The amendments of the mentioned Regulation is the result of the adoption of the Resolution MSC.152(78) by the International Maritime Organisation. The amendments have entered into force on 01 July 2006.

The Regulation 32.3 for provision of immersion suits has been completely revised as follows:

Regulation 32 Personal life-saving appliances

The existing text of paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

3. **Immersion suits**
- 3.1 *This paragraph applies to all cargo ships. However, with respect to cargo ships constructed before 1 July 2006, paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 shall be complied with no later than the first safety equipment survey on or after 1 July 2006.*
- 3.2 *An immersion suit complying with the requirements of section 2.3 of the LSA Code shall be provided for every person on board the ship. However, for ships other than bulk carriers, as defined in Regulation IX/1, these immersion suits need not be required if the ship is constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates where, in the opinion of the Administration, immersion suits are unnecessary.*
- 3.3 *If a ship has any watch or work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed, additional immersion suits shall be provided at these locations for the number of persons normally on watch or working at those locations at any time.*
- 3.4 *Immersion suits shall be so placed as to be readily accessible and their position shall be plainly indicated.*
- 3.5 *The immersion suits required by this regulation may be used to comply with the requirements of regulation 7.3*

All Belgian flagged cargo ships, on which the SOLAS 74 as amended is applicable, shall comply with the following:

- (1) The number of immersion suits to be provided in compliance with SOLAS 74, Chapter III, Reg. 32.3 should correspond to the total number of persons indicated in section 2.1 (Total number of persons for which life-saving appliances are provided) of Form E

- (Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate) and in addition those mentioned under (3) and (4).
- (2) A ship shall continue to carry the number of lifejackets required by SOLAS 74, Chapter III, Reg. 7.2., even if the immersion suits onboard are classified as lifejackets.
 - (3) A minimum of two immersion suits shall be carried for persons on watch for each of the following watch stations:
 - a. the navigation bridge
 - b. the engine control room
 - c. any other manned watch station
 - (4) A minimum of two immersion suits shall be placed at each remote survival craft station, required in accordance with SOLAS 74, Chapter III, Reg. 31.1.4.
 - (5) The immersion suits shall be so placed to be readily accessible and their position shall locally be clearly indicated using the standard pictograms. The vessel's Safety Plan must be updated accordingly as soon as the immersion suits are placed on board. It shall be endorsed only by a BMI-inspector during the first flagstate-survey after 01/07/2006.
 - (6) The immersion suits should be in compliance with the EU Directive 96/98 on marine equipment, as amended by EU Directive 2002/75, Table A.1, section 1.5 and 1.6.
 - (7) BMI will not grant exemption on Regulation 32.3.2 for ships which are constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates

For inquiries and any further information, the Belgian Maritime Inspectorate may be contacted.



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