

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 117 B

IMO Circular 1206. Revised LSA Servicing Requirements. SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20

With effect from 01.07.2006 the periodic servicing and maintenance of LSA equipment should be undertaken in line with the revised requirements.

The following are the BMSR interpretations of the referenced revisions:

All weekly, monthly & routine maintenance may be carried out under the supervision of senior ship's officer according to the vessel's maintenance plan, which is to be based on the respective manufacturers' recommended practices.

In addition life rafts, rescue boats, marine evacuation systems and inflatable life jackets are to be serviced each year by an approved service station. Annual inspections of all life jackets will be carried out by the class surveyor.

The periodic 'thorough inspections' for launching arrangements formally carried out at five yearly intervals are now to be carried out annually. Where this annual 'thorough inspection' is carried out by a servicing company not having neither a servicing approval from the manufacture nor a QA 9001 certificate issued by a IACS classification society then this annual servicing requires to be supervised by a class surveyor.

For the five yearly servicing and testing of lifeboat on load release gear, including the operation of freefall lifeboat launch simulation equipment and load testing it is necessary to have testing supervised by a class surveyor in all cases.

Where it is not possible for the manufacturer's recognised technician to attend the following guidance may be observed. BMSR will accept the competence of attending servicing technicians under the following circumstances.

- i/ The servicing company can provide to the class surveyor a record of servicing the same or similar equipment in the previous 24 months
- ii/ The servicing company holds an IACS class approval for the servicing of the same or similar equipment.
- iii/ Where the use of a workshop facility is required this facility shall have a ISO 9001 quality certificate or equivalent.

Regarding the acceptance of servicing technicians other than those approved by the equipment's manufacturer, the attending class surveyor is authorised to apply these guidelines.

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