



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 026

TRANSFERABLE LIFE RAFTS ON CARGO SHIPS

**TO: SHIPOWNERS & SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS
SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

APPLICABLE TO: All vessels subject to SOLAS 74 as amended equipped by liferafts provided for easy side-to-side transfer
ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1st July 2008

Monaco, 04 April 2008.

Resolution MSC 216(82) – Annex 1 enters into force on 1st July 2008. It amends SOLAS III/31.1.1.2, 31.1.3.2 & 31.1.3.4 and evidences that life rafts provided for easy side-to-side transfer shall have a mass of less than 185 kg.

This requirement will apply to existing and new ships as from 1st July 2008.

Attending Classification Societies' surveyors shall evaluate the life rafts on board to determine if they comply with weight requirement of this regulation. If the vessel is fitted with transferable life rafts not complying with the requirement the following apply:

- Safety Equipment Harmonized survey (occasional/annual/periodical) carried out prior 1st July 2008.
Issue a memo stating that as from 1st July 2008 a life raft(s) weighing more than 185 kg will no longer be in compliance with SOLAS/31.1.1.2 or 31.1.3.2 & 31.1.3.4. One Safety Equipment occasional survey will be required in order to verify the compliance with SOLAS requirement.
- Safety Equipment Harmonized renewal survey carried out prior 1st July 2008.
Issue a Short Term Safety Equipment Certificate valid until 30th June 2008 endorsed with a recommendation requiring the replacement of the life raft(s) weighing more than 185 kg,
- Safety Equipment Harmonized survey (occasional/annual/periodical) carried out after 1st July 2008.
If there is/are no available life raft(s) weighing less than 185 kg at the time of the survey, the Full Term Safety Equipment Certificate should be withdrawn and a Short Term Safety Equipment Certificate valid two months should be issued and endorsed with a recommendation requiring the replacement of the life raft(s) weighing more than 185 kg.
- Safety Equipment Harmonized renewal survey carried out after 1 July 2008.
If there is/are no available life raft(s) weighing less than 185 kg at the time of the survey, a Short Term Safety Equipment Certificate valid two months will be issued and endorsed with a recommendation requiring the replacement of the life raft(s) weighing more than 185 kg.

It is expected that as from 1st July 2008 Port State Control will focus on this SOLAS requirement.