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### **M.S. Notice No.16 of 2014**

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**Subject : Ship specific plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water -**

#### **Introduction:**

The IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 91<sup>st</sup> Session (November 2012), adopted amendments to SOLAS vide Regulation III/17-1 "Recovery of persons from the water".

#### **1. Application:**

The amendments made w.r.t. Regulation III/17-1 of the SOLAS Convention, have entered into force on 01 July 2014. The amendments require all ships to be provided with ship-specific plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water.

Ships constructed before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 shall comply with this requirement by the First Periodical or Renewal safety equipment survey of the ship to be carried out after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, whichever comes first, and Ro-Ro passenger ships which comply with SOLAS Regulation III/26.4, shall be deemed to comply with this regulation.

#### **2. Process :**

The guidance for developing ship-specific plans and procedures may be obtained from the IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1447 (guidelines for the development of plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water).

Compliance of said Regulation will be carried out by Indian Ships as follows –

#### **For cargo ships of more than 500GT:**

2.1 The plan and procedures should be considered as a part of the emergency preparedness plan required by clause 8 of the ISM Code and such plans need not be approved by the Administration. However, the implementation and other records as per plan will be verified annually during annual inspections, by the Administration.

2.2 The plans and procedures to be reviewed annually.

2.3 The ship-specific Plans and procedures for the recovery of persons from the sea should include the following (but not limited to) –

- i) Identify each Ship's life saving appliances or other equipments.
- ii) Conduct suitability and risk assessments for the identified equipment.
- iii) Determine if additional equipment or specialized equipment will be required.
- iv) Develop plans and procedures and consider mitigating measures.
- v) Procedures for recovery.
- vi) Training / drills and records.
- vii) Integration with the safety management system.
- viii) Roles and responsibilities of each duty/procedure.
- ix) Plan review procedures.


The recovery plans and procedures should facilitate the transfer of persons from the water to the ship while minimizing the risk of injury from impact with the ship's side or other structures, including the recovery appliance itself.

**For cargo ships of less than 500GT:**

An abridged version of sub-paras 2.1 to 2.4 (both inclusive) above, which can be implemented through –

Ship's SMS procedures manual; or

Training Manual and on-board training aids, as required under SOLAS Reg. III/35, if Domestic Safety Management System (DSMS) is not applicable to such vessel.



(Capt S. K. Shukla)

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