



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

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## **Life-Saving Appliances; Lifeboats, Rigid Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and On-load Release Gear - Acceptance of Service Suppliers**

**Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crews of Merchant Ships**

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### **Summary**

This Marine Information Note provides guidance on the acceptance of Service Suppliers, to work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear on-board UK ships.

Service Suppliers other than the Original Equipment Manufacturer, carrying out the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear should be authorised to do so.

### **Background**

- 1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has until now approved individual Service Suppliers wishing to conduct statutory work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear on-board UK ships. This approval was in accordance with Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1803 (M) Appendix 3, 'Approval procedure for Independent Lifeboat Service and Testing Organisation' (ILSTO).
- 2 As per MSN 1803 (M) Appendix 3, the MCA has kept this policy under review and decided to no longer approve ILSTOs individually.

### **Acceptance of Service Suppliers Undertaking Work on UK Registered Ships**

- 3 The MCA authorises the following to conduct this work:
  - 3.1 The Original Equipment Manufacturer or one of their representatives; or
  - 3.2 A UK Recognised Organisation approved Service Supplier; or

- 3.3 An existing MCA approved Independent Lifeboat Service and Testing Organisation (ILSTO), until such a time as their approval expires.
- 4 All thorough examinations, operational testing, repair and overhaul work undertaken on lifeboats , rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear should be conducted in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1.

### **Approval of Service Suppliers by UK Recognised Organisations**

- 5 The Original Equipment Manufacturer, and their representatives, do not require further approval to conduct work on their own equipment. However, should they wish to conduct service work on equipment other than their own, then approval should be sought.
- 6 New Service Suppliers and existing MCA ILSTOs whose approval is due for renewal, should approach a UK Recognised Organisation and seek their approval as Service Suppliers for the equipment on which they wish to undertake work. Details of UK Recognised Organisations can be found in the MSN 1672 (M+F) as amended.
- 7 The Recognised Organisation's procedure for approval of the Service Supplier should be based on the following:
- 7.1 International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Z17 "Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers"; and
  - 7.2 International Maritime Organization (IMO) MSC.1/Circ.1277 "Interim recommendations on conditions for authorisation of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear".

## More Information

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File Ref: MS 003/07/XX

Published: February 2012  
Please note that all addresses and  
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*Department for*  
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