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

**Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crew of Merchant Ships, Authorised Service Personnel and Recognised Organisations.**

*This Note replaces MIN 424.*

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### **Summary**

This Marine Guidance Note provides guidance on the authorisation of service providers, to work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear on-board UK ships.

Service providers other than the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and other than official authorised service providers of the OEM, 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 by a Recognised Organisation (RO).

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) no longer approves individual service providers wishing to conduct statutory work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear on-board UK ships. The UK no longer, therefore, has any Independent Lifeboat Service and Testing Organisations' (ILSTO). Instead, the MCA accepts service providers authorised by the OEM or one of the UK authorised ROs listed in the MSN 1672.
- 1.2 The MCA policy described at paragraph 1.1 has highlighted some procedural issues and this MGN seeks to address those issues as well as set out the terms on which the above policy is to be applied. In order to maintain the validity of applicable international certification on UK ships, 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 as applicable and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1. This MGN does not alter that requirement in any way.



1.3 The IMO is in the process of reviewing SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 to make clearer the responsibilities of relevant personnel at each stage of the life of equipment and the MCA will update this note as and when any changes become applicable.

## **2. OEM and Official Authorised Service Providers of the OEM**

2.1 The OEM and official authorised service providers of the OEM do not require further approval to conduct work on equipment manufactured by that OEM. However, should a service provider wish to conduct service work on equipment other than that of the authorising OEM, then additional approval for the specific equipment, from a UK authorised RO or the actual OEM, should be obtained before commencing work.

## **3. Authorisation of Service Providers by Recognised Organisations**

3.1 Other than OEM and official authorised service providers of the OEM, service providers wishing to conduct work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear fitted to UK ships in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20, as applicable and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 should approach a UK authorised RO (listed in MSN1672) and seek their authorisation as a service provider for the specific equipment on which they wish to undertake work.

3.2 It should be noted that different levels of authorisation are issued by UK RO for work in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, which may mean that an authorisation does not give automatic authority to conduct all work in accordance with these IMO instruments, nor may it necessarily permit work to be undertaken on every type of equipment.

3.3 Other than OEM and official authorised service providers of the OEM, only service providers authorised by a UK RO through an assessment against the provisions of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Z17 "Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers" and 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" will be accepted.

3.4 Any service provider found by the MCA not to be meeting these requirements will be reported to the authorising RO and the MCA may advise that the service provider will not be accepted for work on UK ships.

## **4. Action by Ship Operators**

4.1 It has been brought to the attention of the MCA that some service providers may be authorised by one RO but not authorised by others. Care should be taken by ship operators to ensure that service providers conducting work on their ships in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 are authorised by either the OEM, or a UK RO in accordance with 3.1.

## **5. Reporting of Concern**

5.1 Any concerns about the activities of service providers conducting work in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 should be addressed in the first instance to the authorising body (OEM or RO) but if this does not resolve the concern then such cases should be reported to the MCA's Marine Technology Branch.



## More Information

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