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Consultation on the proposed Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements) Regulations 2020

Dear Dave,

Thank you for your response to the consultation on the updating of the international requirements for life-saving appliances and arrangements under Chapter III of SOLAS. The primary aim of this piece of work was to replace the existing UK regulations in order to implement amendments to Chapter III and to ensure that all future amendments to the relevant SOLAS requirements are automatically implemented into domestic law by including an ambulatory reference provision in the regulations.

In relation to the domestic position (that is, for ships not subject to SOLAS), by moving all the technical requirements out of regulations and into the MSN, it allows us to make amendments as suggested in your response in a more timely manner and with further specific consultation. It was considered that the current approach was the most pragmatic way of ensuring that the international requirements could be quickly implemented. The MCA will therefore be consulting on proposed amendments to the MSN in due course.

Thank you for taking the time to go through the current consultation documents in as much detail as you have done. We have taken all your comments on board, and they will assist us in formulating our consultation package for the review of the technical requirements in the MSN. In particular, we note the points raised regarding first aid kits and will review these further.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RT", written over a horizontal line.

Rob Taylor
Marine Technology Policy Lead – Life Saving Appliances