



Ref. T1/2.08

SLS.14/Circ.115
21 June 1993

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

Issue of Exemption Certificates under the 1974 SOLAS Convention and Amendments thereto

1 At its sixty-second session (24 to 28 May 1993), the Maritime Safety Committee considered Circular SLS. 14/Circ.54 on the Issue of Exemption Certificates under the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended, noting that, under the provisions of regulation I/12(a)(vi) thereof, the Administration is required to issue an Exemption Certificate when an exemption is granted to a ship under, and in accordance with, the provisions of that Convention.

2 The Committee also noted that in various SOLAS regulations the words "exemptions", "relaxations", "dispensations" and "waivers" are used with apparently no intended difference in their meaning.

3 Having considered the matter, the Committee agreed that an Exemption Certificate should be issued when:

- .1 the conditions under which an exemption (relaxation, etc.) can be granted are of a general nature and open to interpretations;
- .2 there are no clear alternative conditions under which an exemption (relaxation etc.) can be granted;
- .3 the information concerning the exemption is not contained in other available documents such as special trade passenger ship certificates, stability information, document of authorization for the carriage of grain, etc.;
- .4 the information concerning an exemption is necessary for the application of the Convention by the Administration or the port State authorities when the ship is in service.

4 Annexed to this circular is a list of the regulations contained in the 1974 SOLAS Convention and its Amendments, where an Exemption Certificate should be issued when the Administration grants dispensations, relaxations, waivers or exemptions.

5 Exemption certificates should indicate the conditions on which exemption is granted.

6 It should be noted that particulars on exemptions granted under regulation I/4(b), regulation II-1/25-1.3 (1990 May amendments) and regulation IV/5 (1974 SOLAS) or regulation IV/3 (1988 GMDSS amendments) should be communicated to the Organization by the Administration concerned. In other cases, particulars on exemptions granted are not required to be communicated to the Organization.

7 When an Exemption Certificate is issued, port State authorities should interpret this as meaning that the ship complies with the provisions of the Convention.

8 Port State authorities are requested to check, whenever possible, with the Administration of the flag State should there be any doubt whether an exemption has been granted.

9 This circular supersedes SLS.14/Circ.54.

10 The Committee invites all SOLAS Contracting Governments to take note and adopt the procedure as prescribed above.

ANNEX

**LIST OF PROVISIONS OF THE 1974 SOLAS CONVENTION AND AMENDMENTS
THERE TO WHERE AN EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE SHOULD BE ISSUED IF
THE ADMINISTRATION GRANTS AN EXEMPTION ETC.**

Chapter I (1974 SOLAS Convention)

Regulation	Subject
4 (a)	Ship on single international voyage
4 (b)	Ship which embodies features of a novel kind

Chapter II-1 (1974 SOLAS Convention/Amendments)

Regulation	Subject
*1(c)/1.4(81)	Sheltered nature and conditions of voyage
** -/11.9(89)	Stern tubes
-/12-1.4(89)	Double bottoms in cargo ships other than tankers
-/20-1.3 (88 October)	Closure of cargo loading doors
-/25-1.3(90 May)	Subdivision and damage stability of cargo ships
-/25-9.1(90 May)	Openings in watertight bulkheads and internal decks in cargo ships
-/25-10.4(90 May)	External openings in cargo ships
-/53.2.1(81)	Stand-by generator (dispensation)

Chapter II-2 (1974 SOLAS Convention/Amendments)

Regulation	Subject
1(e)/1.4.1(81)	Sheltered nature and conditions of voyage
-/4.3.4.3(81)	Remote starting of fire pumps
48(a)(i)/28.1.1(81)	One means of escape (dispensation)
32(a)(iii)/40.2(81)/40.2(89)	Fire detection or alarm system on short voyages

* 1(c)/1.4(81) means regulation I(c) of chapter II-1 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and regulation II-1/1.4 of the 1981 SOLAS Amendments.

** Dash (-) means that there was no corresponding regulation previous to adoption of the amendment.

-/45.1.3(81)	One means of escape (dispensation)
-/60.4.2(81)	Inert gas systems for tankers less than 40,000 dwt

Chapter III (1974 SOLAS Convention/Amendments)

Regulation	Subject
3(a)/2.1(83)	Sheltered nature and conditions of the voyage
11(b)/41.8.32(83)	Equipment of lifeboats
13(b)/6.2.1.3(83)	Portable radio apparatus for survival craft*
-/21.4.2.2(83)	Thermal protective aids
-/27.3.2.3(83)	Immersion suits
-/27.3.3.3(83)	Immersion suits
35(a)(i)/-	Liferafts for cargo ships on limited voyages

Chapter IV (1974 SOLAS Convention/Amendments)

Regulation	Subject
5/3.2 (88 GMDSS)	Partial, conditional or complete exemption from a radiotelegraph station (regulation 3) or a radiotelephone station (regulation 4)/partial or conditional exemption from the requirements for radio equipment (regulations 7 to 11)
-/7.4 (88 GMDSS)	Radiotelephone distress frequency watch receiver and the device for generating the radiotelephone alarm signal**
-/14.2(88 GMDSS)	Equipment fitted prior to February 1992
12(b)(iii)/-	Radio equipment for homing on radiotelephone distress frequency (technical difficulties)

* Until 1 February 1995

** From 1 February 1997 to 1 February 1999

Chapter V (1974 SOLAS Convention/Amendments)

Regulation	Subject
12(b)/12(p)(81)/12(p)(88 GMDSS)	Radio direction-finding apparatus for ships of less than 5,000 gross tonnage (81)/Radio direction-finding apparatus (88 GMDSS)
-/12(j)(iii)(81)	Automatic radar plotting aid
-/12(u)(81)	Regulation 12, partial or conditional, depending on voyage
