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MSC.1/Circ.1485
14 January 2015

EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAS REGULATION XI-1/7 ON ATMOSPHERE TESTING INSTRUMENT FOR ENCLOSED SPACES

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-third session (14 to 23 May 2014), when approving the draft new SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 "Atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces", recalled that MSC 92 had adopted, by resolution MSC.350(92), SOLAS regulation III/19 "Emergency training and drills" with an entry-into-force date of 1 January 2015, requiring that each enclosed space entry and rescue drill shall include checking and use of instruments for measuring the atmosphere in enclosed spaces.

2 MSC 93, having confirmed that paragraph 3.6.2.3 of SOLAS regulation III/19 does not introduce carriage requirements for atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces, recognized the need to implement the draft new SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 early, in order to expedite the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces.

3 Consequently, the Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fourth session (17 to 21 November 2014), in adopting resolution MSC.380(94) on *Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974*, as amended, invited SOLAS Contracting Governments to voluntarily implement SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, as set out below, to ships entitled to fly their flags, as soon as practicable, taking into account that the entry-into-force date of the corresponding amendments to SOLAS is 1 July 2016:

"Regulation 7 - Atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces

Every ship to which chapter I applies shall carry an appropriate portable atmosphere testing instrument or instruments*. As a minimum, these shall be capable of measuring concentrations of oxygen, flammable gases or vapours, hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide prior to entry into enclosed spaces**. Instruments carried under other requirements may satisfy this regulation. Suitable means shall be provided for the calibration of all such instruments.

* Refer to the *Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7* (MSC.1/Circ.1477).

** Refer to the *Revised recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships* (resolution A.1050(27))."

4 Member Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.