SAFETY ALERT
Altura lifebuoy made by Veleria S. Giorgio

APPLICABILITY
All shipowners and operators

INFORMATION
The Swedish Transport Agency has found serious defects on some lifebuoys on Swedish flagged ships.

The lifebuoy in question is the type ‘Altura > 2.5kg’ manufactured by Veleria S. Giorgio.

Under the reflective tape on each lifebuoy there is a hole with a diameter of 15mm. Inside the plastic shell, the lifebuoys are filled with plastic foam. The plastic foam inside the lifebuoy may shrink in volume and in some cases water may penetrate through the hole and fill the lifebuoys with water.

Veleria S. Giorgio has sent a letter to its customers alerting them to the issue and asking them to check lifebuoys for defects. A copy is attached to this Classification News for reference.

Owners are encouraged to examine all lifebuoys to ensure similar defects are not present. The photograph below shows a defective lifebuoy for reference.

HELP US TO HELP YOU – if you are an owner or operator and require further assistance, please get in touch with your local Lloyd’s Register Group office at the earliest opportunity and we will be happy to assist.

Further information
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Messrs Mariteam A/S,

after the communication that we received from the Swedish Transport Agency on the 10th of November 2009 concerning a product of ours (Altura lifebuoy 2,5 kg), we would like to ask you with a certain urgency to check if you or your customers still have any piece of this model of lifebuoy with date of production January 2004.

If you will find it, you will have to make a simple test consisting in the following steps:

1. To weigh the lifebuoy;
2. To remove one of the four reflective tapes covering the hole;
3. To check if the lifebuoy is full of foam material.
4. If the lifebuoy isn't full of foam material it's necessary to put it in water for some minutes to let come the water inside the lifebuoy.
5. To weight the lifebuoy and to compare this result with the first one; the difference hasn’t to exceed 400 gr.

In the case of higher difference between the two weights, the lifebuoy will have to be eliminated from the safety equipment of the ships and immediately sent back to the supplier.

Veleria San Giorgio will replace it as soon as possible.

Thanking you for the kind cooperation,

with our best regards

Mr Anton Francesco Albertoni
General Manager
Veleria San Giorgio Srl