

# CLASSIFICATION NEWS

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**STATUTORY ALERT** Changes to the LSA Code and SOLAS – requirements for lifejackets

**APPLICABILITY** Shipowners, builders and managers, and lifejacket manufacturers

**INFORMATION** Amendments to Chapter II of the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code come into effect on July 1, 2010, and introduce the following new requirements for the approval of lifejackets:

- Each lifejacket shall be fitted with a whistle firmly secured by a lanyard.
- Lifejacket lights and whistles shall be selected and secured to the lifejacket in such a way that their performance in combination is not degraded.
- Each lifejacket shall be provided with a releasable buoyant line or other means to secure it to a lifejacket worn by another person in the water.
- Each lifejacket shall be provided with a suitable means to allow a rescuer to lift the wearer from the water into a survival craft or rescue boat.

The requirements apply:

- to lifejackets provided on board ships constructed (having their keel laid) on or after July 1, 2010  
**and**
- when providing new lifejackets to vessels with a keel laying date before July 1, 2010.

New requirements for the carriage of additional equipment, also effective July 1, 2010, have been introduced under the SOLAS Convention, as follows:

- On all ships where adult lifejackets are not designed to fit persons weighing up to 140 kg with a chest girth of up to 1,750 mm, suitable accessories are to be provided that allow the lifejacket to be secured to such persons.
- All passenger ships are to be provided with lifejackets for “infants”.

#### **Relevant IMO resolutions and circulars**

The amendments to Chapter II of the LSA Code and Chapter III of SOLAS were adopted by the IMO through resolutions MSC.207(81) and MSC.201(81) respectively.

Resolution MSC.81(70) – *Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances* (adopted on December 11, 1998) has been amended by resolution MSC.200(80) to reflect the new requirements.

However, it should be noted that *MSC/Circ.980 – Standardized Life-Saving Appliance Evaluation and Test Report Forms* has not been similarly amended; when required, these amendments will be applied and information is to be included in the relevant test report forms.

#### **Further information**

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