



**Marine Circular**

**Nr. 02/ 2023, 23/03/2023**

**Subject:** “Service and Inspection of Lifeboats, Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances, and Release Gear”

**Ref.:** (a) Resolution MSC.402(96) Requirement for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul, and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances, and release gear.  
(b) SOLAS Chapter III.

**Scope:** The purpose of this Marine Circular is to indicate to all interested parties, the G-B I.S.R. applicable procedures concerning the Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear as required by the Maritime Safety Committee in its Resolution MSC.402(96), and promulgates the G-B I.S.R. requirements and procedures for authorization of Service Providers for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear on G-B I.S.R. flagged vessels.

**To:** Shipowners / Managers / Operators, ISM Operators, Representatives of G-B flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Masters, Port State Control Surveyors, and Recognized Organizations.

## **1. Applicability**

**1.1** This Marine Circular applies to all G-B I.S.R. registered vessels, their managing companies, and authorized service providers.

## **2. Legislative Background**

**2.1** Amendments to SOLAS regulations III/3 and III/20 for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances, and release gear were adopted through Resolution MSC.404(96). The requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances, and release gear were adopted through Resolution MSC.402(96). Resolution MSC.402(96) amalgamates Annex 1 of MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances, and on-load release gear, and MSC.1/Circ.1277, the Interim Recommendation on conditions for authorization of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear.



### 3. Inspections & Maintenance

**3.1** Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s) should be conducted under the direct supervision of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s). A thorough examination, operational testing, repairs, and overhaul of lifeboats, launching appliances, and on-load release gear are carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 by service providers that are qualified in these operations for each make and type of equipment.

**3.2** As per SOLAS Amended Regulation III/3, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul, and repair of the following items should be carried out in accordance with the [IMO Resolution MSC.402\(96\)](#). Res. MSC.402(96) prescribes that personnel carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and testing, and repair of the following items shall be certified by an authorized service provider:

- a. Lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, and fast rescue boats.
- b. Launching appliances as well as on-load and off-load release gears for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats, and davit-launched life rafts.

### 4. Inspection Intervals

**4.1** The following inspection intervals are described:

- a. Weekly and monthly inspections shall be conducted by shipboard personnel under the direction of a senior ship officer following the maintenance manual(s). For these cases, authorization by this Administration is not required.
- b. Annual thorough examinations and operational tests shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or service provider authorized by the manufacturer. In general, an authorized service provider is an entity authorized by flag administrations in accordance with the requirements given in the Res. MSC.402(96).
- c. A five-year thorough examination, any overhaul, overload operational tests, and repairs shall be conducted by certified personnel of the manufacturer, or a service provider authorized by the manufacturer. This shall be done in the presence of the surveyor of the Recognized Organization in charge.

**4.2** The scope for each inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul, and repair interval is detailed in the Res. MSC.402(96), Section 6.



## 5. Service Providers Authorization

**5.1** This Administration may authorize service providers other than the mentioned above, on a case-by-case basis. For the above purpose the G-B I.S.R. Technical Department is to be contacted ([tech@gbi-lb.org](mailto:tech@gbi-lb.org)) requesting authorization on an ad-hoc basis along with the documents listed below:

- a. Valid Quality Management System certification.
- b. Proof of personnel education and training standards.
- c. Proof of relevant training for the specific equipment or equivalent related material.
- d. Proof of previous authorizations under IACS Classification Societies.
- e. Settlement of applicable fees is due for this authorization.

## 6. Action by Ship Managers / Operators

**6.1** Shipowners / Managers / Operators should ensure that the service providers conducting work on their ships in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.402(96) are properly authorized for the servicing of the model of life-saving equipment installed on board as described above.

**6.2** All reports and checklists shall be completed and signed by the person who carries out the inspection and maintenance work and countersigned by the Company's representative or the ship's master. Records of inspections, servicing, and maintenance should be updated and filed on board the ship.

**6.3** When a thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul, and repair are carried out by an authorized service provider, a report of service and statement of fitness shall be issued, and the documentation must be kept on board. During the Annual Survey, the Recognized Organization in charge shall verify whether all the examinations and operational tests were carried out by an authorized service provider, checking the documentation on board.

## 7. Enquiries

**7.1** Any inquiries relating to this Marine Circular may be addressed to the G-B I.S.R. – Technical Department (E-mail: [tech@gbi-lb.org](mailto:tech@gbi-lb.org) , Tel.: +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537194).

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar

