

South African Maritime Safety Authority

Marine Notice No. 34 of 2004

Content of liferaft equipment packs to be carried on South African ships

TO OWNERS, OPERATORS AND MASTERS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS; APPROVED LIFERAFT SERVICING STATIONS; PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND SURVEYORS

Marine Notice No. 29 of 2004 is cancelled

Summary

The *Merchant Shipping (Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2002*, require that liferafts carried on South African pleasure vessels be SAMSА-approved. This requires SAMSА to determine the equipment to be kept in such liferafts. Accordingly, this marine notice revises SAMSА's policy on liferaft equipment.

1 This marine notice clarifies requirements relating to the SOLAS-type liferaft pack (SOLAS A Pack), the pack for liferafts carried by ships on restricted voyages (Restricted Pack), and the pack for liferafts approved under the *Merchant Shipping (Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2002* (Small Vessel Pack). The notice also lists the types of liferaft that may be carried on the various kinds of South African ships.

2 **For South African ships of 25 or more gross tonnage, being ships of classes I, II, IIA, VII, VIIA, VIII, X, XI and XII, the following applies:**

- .1 Only the SAMSА-approved SOLAS-type liferaft is acceptable. This liferaft complies with the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code.
- .2 Minimum liferaft equipment (SOLAS A Pack) is given in Annex 1.
- .3 The liferaft container must be marked "SOLAS A PACK" by an approved servicing station.

3 **For South African ships of 25 or more gross tonnage, being ships of class V or VI or of class IX, and South African passenger vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage, the following applies:**

- .1 These liferafts are acceptable: the SAMSА-approved SOLAS-type liferaft; and the SAMSА-approved open-reversible liferaft.
- .2 Minimum liferaft equipment (Restricted Pack) is given in Annex 2.
- .3 The liferaft container must be clearly marked "RESTRICTED PACK" by an approved servicing station.

4 For South African commercial vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage, including passenger vessels restricted in their area of operation, and pleasure vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage, the following applies:

- .1 These liferafts are acceptable: SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type liferafts; and SAMSA-approved non-SOLAS-type liferafts. (*Note:* SAMSA approval of non-SOLAS-type liferafts is currently underway).
- .2 Minimum liferaft equipment is given in Annex 3. For vessels proceeding more than 40 nautical miles from shore, a waterproof container (grabbag) with additional water, food, first aid kit and additional emergency equipment must be carried.
- .3 The container or valise for non-SOLAS-type liferafts types must be marked with the date of manufacture, the date of next service and the number of persons it is certified to carry.
- .4 In addition, the approved servicing station must mark the container or valise with the words "APPROVED FOR USE ON COMMERCIAL VESSELS OF LESS THAN 25 GT AND PLEASURE VESSELS OF LESS THAN 100 GT" and, if equipped in accordance with Annex 3, with the words "SMALL VESSEL PACK" and the following warning:

WARNING!

THIS LIFERAFT IS EQUIPPED WITH A REDUCED EQUIPMENT PACK. FOR VOYAGES BEYOND 40 NAUTICAL MILES FROM SHORE, A WATERPROOF CONTAINER (GRABBAG) CONTAINING ADDITIONAL WATER, FOOD, FIRST AID KIT AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT MUST BE CARRIED.

5 SOLAS does not prescribe the content for liferaft first aid kits. However, for liferafts on South African ships the content is prescribed and is set out in Annex 4.

6 The following table summarizes the types of liferafts and equipment packs that South African ships must carry:

Ship type	Liferaft type	Equipment pack
Ships of classes I, II, IIA, VII, VIIA, VIII, X, XI and XII	SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type	SOLAS A Pack
Ships of classes V, VI and IX, and passenger vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage	SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type or SAMSA-approved open reversible type	Restricted Pack
Commercial vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage, including passenger vessels restricted in their area of operation, and pleasure vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage	SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type or SAMSA-approved non-SOLAS-type	Small Vessel Pack. Grabbag required for voyages more than 40 nautical miles from shore.

7 SAMSA is aware of the large number of unapproved liferafts currently in service on pleasure vessels. SAMSA does not intend to approve these liferafts retroactively but expects servicing stations that service these liferafts to be an appointed agent for the liferaft type. It should be noted that licenced

vessels (i.e. commercial small vessels) have been required to carry approved liferafts since 1986; this means that no unapproved liferafts may be carried on these vessels.

8 SAMSA will accept for use on pleasure vessels liferafts purchased before 26 April 2004. For the time being, they will be considered acceptable for the period expiring ten years after the date of purchase, unless condemned earlier by a liferaft servicing station.

9 Liferafts carried on commercial vessels must be serviced annually, and those carried on pleasure vessels may be serviced at intervals recommended by the manufacturer. Every liferaft serviced after the date of this marine notice must be equipped in accordance with the appropriate Annex.

10 Approved liferaft servicing stations must keep a copy of this marine notice readily available, and servicing staff are expected to be familiar with its content. Failure to comply with the requirements of this marine notice may result in SAMSA cancelling the station's approval.