

# South African Maritime Safety Authority



## **Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007**

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### **Carriage of Immersion suits and thermal protection aids on SOLAS vessels**

TO: OWNERS, MANAGERS, MASTERS, AND OFFICERS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS, AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

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#### *Summary*

This marine notice advises the requirements for the carriage of immersion suits and thermal protective aids on cargo ships with effect from 1 July 2006 in terms of Regulation III/32.3.2 of SOLAS 74 as amended.

- 1 Amended requirements for the carriage of immersion suits in terms of an amendment to Chapter III, Section III – Cargo ships (Additional Requirements), Regulation 32.3 (Immersion suits and thermal protective aids) of SOLAS 74 came into force on 1 July 2006.
- 2 The requirements for the carriage of immersion suits for cargo ships with effect from 1 July 2006 are as follows:
  - (a) cargo ships must carry immersion suits for every person on board;
  - (b) additional immersion suits must be carried for the number of persons normally on watch or working in work stations which are located remotely from places where immersion suits are normally stowed;
  - (c) exemption from the carriage requirement for immersion suits may be granted only to cargo ships constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates.
- 3 The term “voyages in warm climates” has been interpreted by the Authority (SAMSA) to be within the latitudes of the following limitations:-
  - § Cargo ships with totally enclosed lifeboats operating between 40° North and 40° South.
  - § Cargo ships with open lifeboats operating between 30° North and 30° South.
  - § Cargo ships of less than 85 metres carrying liferafts only, irrespective of launching method, 20° North and 20° South.
  - § Cargo ships exempted from carriage of lifeboats in terms of the Life Saving Appliances Regulations, 1968, 20° North and 20° South.
  - § Cargo ships operating exclusively in the South African port operations area.
  - § Cargo ships undertaking occasional voyages between ports in the Republic.

For the purposes of this marine notice “cargo ships” shall mean any ship to which the SOLAS convention applies.

- 4.1 The requirements are applicable to cargo ships regardless of their date of construction.
- 4.2 Cargo ships constructed before 1 July 2006 must comply with the requirements not later than the first safety equipment survey after 1 January 2008.
- 4.3 Cargo ships constructed after 1 July 2006 must comply with the requirements at the time of the first safety survey.
- 5 The additional immersion suits which must be provided for persons who are working remotely from where the suits are normally stowed must be located and sufficient in number to the satisfaction of the Administration
- 6 The immersion suits required in terms of SOLAS, Regulation III/32.3.2 to be carried in each lifeboat, and in terms of Regulation III/7.3 to be provided to rescue boat crew, may be included in the suits assigned in terms of paragraph 8 of this notice.
- 7 Testing and repairing of immersion suits:-
  - § A person shall be designated by the Master to conduct monthly visual inspections of the immersion suits.
  - § Immersion suits shall be sent ashore for testing of seams and closures as follows:-
    - § Immersion suits less than 10 years old, every two years, and
    - § Immersion suits older than 10 years, annually.

All repairs and inspections are to be conducted by a repair/inspection facility authorised by the manufacturer and approved by the Authority.
- 8 Immersion suits shall be assigned by the Master. Immersion suits must be of sizes adequate to fit all persons on board, or of the adjustable type.
- 9 The carriage of immersion suits does NOT exempt ships from the carriage of lifejackets even if the suits are fitted with a “built-in” lifejackets.
- 10 Immersion suits must be stored in readily accessible and clearly marked locations. The conditions inside storage facilities shall ensure that the suits remain in good condition.
  - 11.1 All crew must be familiar with the locations of immersion suits and lifejackets and the methods of donning these.
  - 11.2 Regular drills must be held to ensure that crew can efficiently don immersion suits immediately when required.
  - 11.3 Training manuals and safety plans must be updated as required.
- 12 The carriage of immersion suits does NOT exempt vessels from providing thermal aids in survival craft and rescue boats, irrespective of the vessel’s trading area.

05 October 2007

SM6/5/2/1

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