

GUIDANCE NOTE 09/2019

IMO RESOLUTION MSC.402(96)

New requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear

To: OWNERS, MANAGERS, MASTERS, CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES and LSA SERVICE COMPANIES.

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Guidance Note has been published to advise operators of Red Ensign Group (REG) registered vessels of Resolution MSC.402(96) which enters into force on 1st January 2020.
2. **RESOLUTION MSC 402(96)**
 - 2.1 This new Resolution establishes requirements for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear and is summarised as follows:
 - 2.2 All personnel carrying out the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, shall be certified by the manufacturer or an Authorized Service Provider (ASP) for each make and type of equipment to be worked on.
 - 2.3 The requirements for the authorization of ASPs is defined in MSC.402(96) and this includes initial and periodical audits of the ASPs. It has been agreed by the REG that the authorisation of ASPs will be delegated to Recognised Organisations who have been appointed by the individual members of the REG.
 - 2.4 The specific procedures for the inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair is stated in MSC.402(96). This includes the requirements for general maintenance, annual thorough examination and operational testing and five-year thorough examination, overhaul and overload operational tests.
 - 2.5 MSC.402(96) also defines the work which can be carried out by ASPs, ship operators and manufacturers. This has been summarised in the flow chart attached to this Notice.

3 ACTIONS REQUIRED

- 3.1** From the 1st January 2020 ship operators will be required to ensure all thorough examinations, operational tests, overhaul and repair of LSA equipment are carried out by personnel certified by an ASP in accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) for each make and type/model of equipment.

4 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is MSC.402(96) now referenced in SOLAS?

Yes, Resolution MSC.404(96) also enters into force on 1st January 2020 and this Resolution amends SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 3 – Definitions, with a new paragraph which references Resolution MSC.402(96).

Has MSC.402(96) replaced previous IMO guidelines?

MSC 402(96) replaces MSC.1/Circular 1206/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circular 1277.

Will an existing approval, issued in compliance with MSC.1/Circ.1277 still be valid after 1st January 2020?

Existing approvals will be valid after 1st January 2020 until the approval's expiry date or until 3 years from the date of issue, whichever occurs first. Once the approval has expired, it will have to be re-issued in accordance with Resolution MSC 402(96).

Will REG accept the authorization of Service Providers issued by other Administrations?

Yes, REG will accept the authorization of service providers issued by other Administrations, this is permitted by MSC 402(96).

What is the definition of "Make and Type" used in section 7 & 8 of MSC 402(96)?

The definition of "Make and type" should be read as per ISO standard ISO/PAS 23678-1:2019(E); Maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear Service Personnel.

This defines Type (Model) as; a category of LSA equipment having common characteristics as identified in the scope of this standard.

Can an ASP be accredited to work on a different manufacturer's equipment?

This is permitted, however the ASP will have to demonstrate during their authorisation process that they have sufficient technical information (e.g. the manufacturer's guidelines) in order to establish a training program for the make and type of another manufacturer's equipment.

Flowchart for the 5 yearly, annual and weekly/monthly maintenance and testing of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear in accordance with MSC.402(96)

Administration

(For Cayman Islands registered ships this has been delegated to Recognized Organizations on behalf of the Administration)

Must authorise for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliance and release gear with Sections 3 & 7 (of MSC.402(96))

Authorized Service Provider

(ASP) including
Manufacturers when they are acting as an ASP.

Conducted by certified personnel in accordance with
Sections 7 & 8 of MSC.402(96)

Ship operator if authorised as a
service provider in accordance with
Sections 3 & 7 of MSC.402(96)

Ship operator
under the direction of a senior
ship's officer in accordance with
the maintenance manuals

5 yearly thorough examination,
overhaul and overload operational
tests
(see Section 6.3 of MSC.402(96))

Annual thorough examinations
& operational tests
(see Section 6.2 of
MSC.402(96))

Weekly and monthly
inspections and routine
maintenance specified in the
equipment's maintenance
manual.