



An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

Marine Notice No. 15 of 2023

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers,
Recognised Organisations, Yachtspersons and Seafarers*

This Marine Notice supersedes Marine Notice No. 60 of 2012.

**Amendments to Chapter III of SOLAS 1974
concerning Regulation 20 - Operational readiness,
maintenance and inspections onboard vessels,
including fishing vessels**

The Department of Transport wishes to draw attention to [Marine Notice No. 52 of 2020](#) regarding International Maritime Organization (IMO) amendments to Chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, which entered into force on 1 January 2020.

Particular attention is drawn to the requirements for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear which are contained in the [IMO Resolution MSC.402\(96\)](#), superseding MSC/Circ.1206/Rev1. The safety and operational readiness of such equipment fitted on-board fishing vessels are of critical importance and the Department wishes to advise that the arrangements contained in Marine Notice No. 52 of 2020 apply, as appropriate, to fishing vessels. Compliance with the requirements will be verified during the safety surveys of fishing vessels. Marine Notice No. 60 of 2012 is hereby withdrawn.

The Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) (Amendment) Rules 2022 (S.I. No. 466 of 2022) amend the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Rules 2018 (S.I. No. 438 of 2018) to incorporate into national legislation technical amendments to SOLAS Chapter III up to and including those adopted at the 98th session of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization. The amendments relate to such matters as drills, muster lists, plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water and maintenance, examination, operational testing and inspection of life-saving appliances, including lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

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