



An Roinn Iompair  
Department of Transport

## Marine Notice No. 52 of 2020

Notice to all: *Shipping companies, ship owners, ship operators, shipmasters, LSA maintenance and service providers, equipment manufacturers, recognised organisations and all parties concerned.*

**This Marine Notice Supersedes Marine Notice No 37 of 2009**

### **Amendments to Chapter III of SOLAS 1974 concerning Regulation 20 - Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Marine Notice 37 of 2009 was issued in response to the 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 2009.

Further amendments to SOLAS Chapter III entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and Marine Notice 37 of 2009 is hereby withdrawn.

The purpose of this notice is to notify the industry of these amendments and to clarify 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).

When carrying out the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear as required by SOLAS Chapter III regulation 20 the requirements of MSC resolution 402(96) are to be used. These now supersede MSC /Circ.1206/Rev.1

In accordance with MSC.1/Circ1618 the Marine Survey Office requires that the thorough examination, overhauls and operational tests of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear carried out at intervals of at least once every five years is done in the presence of a Marine Survey Office (MSO) surveyor, or a surveyor from a recognised organisation, by certified personnel from an authorised service provider.

#### **AUTHORISED SERVICE PROVIDERS**

The annual and five yearly thorough examination, operational testing, repair, and

overhaul of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 must be carried out by certified personnel of service providers authorised by the MSO, or another SOLAS contracting government.

Personnel carrying out all annual and five yearly maintenance and inspection work covered in MSC Circular 402(96) must be certified for each make and type of equipment for which they provide the service and be trained either by the equipment manufacturer, or the authorised service provider.

The requirements for authorization of service providers and for the certification of personnel carrying out work are set out in IMO Resolution MSC. 402(96). Equipment manufacturers must also be authorised as service providers by the MSO or another SOLAS contracting government when acting as service providers.

In cases where the equipment manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, the MSO may authorize service providers on the basis of holding prior authorisation for the equipment and long term experience as the service provider for the equipment in question.

Service providers wishing to be authorised in Ireland should contact the Marine Survey Office for further information.

Irish Maritime Administration,  
Department of Transport  
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

11/11/2020

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:  
The Marine Survey Office, [MSO@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MSO@transport.gov.ie)  
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division,  
[MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie](mailto:MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie)  
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:  
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