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Ref. T4/3.01

MSC/Circ.1127  
15 December 2004

**EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDMENT TO  
SOLAS REGULATION III/19.3.3.3 ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION MSC.152(78)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-eighth session (12 to 21 May 2004), noting the urgent need to give effect to measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats and, in particular, to reduce personal injuries resulting from such accidents, adopted an amendment to SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3 in relation to the operating crew being aboard lifeboats at the time of launching during abandon ship drills. The amendment is not scheduled to enter into force until 1 July 2006.

2 Recognizing the effect of this amendment in improving the occupational health and safety of seafarers and, thus, the importance of avoiding delays in relation to this matter, the Committee, at its seventy-ninth session (1 to 10 December 2004), urged Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention to implement the amendment prior to its scheduled date of entry into force. The Committee further urged Contracting Governments to provide appropriate documentation for ships flying their flag to which such early implementation has been granted and port States to accept such early implementation.

3 The Committee also urged Contracting Governments, ship masters and shipowners to take care that ship's crew are not exposed to new or additional risks in accessing or exiting lifeboats once they are deployed/recovered unmanned, and that a safe means of access is provided.



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MSC/Circ.1139  
15 December 2004

**CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO PROPULSION CONTROL AUTOMATION  
SYSTEMS OF SHIPS BUILT AFTER 1 JULY 1986, BUT BEFORE 1 JULY 2004  
(SOLAS REGULATION II-1/31)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its seventy-ninth session (1 to 10 December 2004), recalled that, at its seventy-sixth session, it had adopted, by resolution MSC.134(76), amendments to SOLAS regulation II-1/31, prescribing functional requirements for automated propulsion control systems. The amendments entered into force on 1 July 2004.

2 Regulation II-1/31, because of its location in SOLAS chapter II-1, applies to all ships the keels of which are laid after 1 July 1986. However, the Committee agreed that it was not the intention to apply this regulation to ships already in service (constructed before 1 July 2004). The Committee, therefore, clarified that regulation 31.2.10 of part C of chapter II-1 of SOLAS should only apply to ships constructed on or after 1 July 2004.

3 The Committee noted that draft SOLAS amendments to that effect had been circulated by circular letter No.2592 of 28 October 2004, following a request by the United Kingdom, for consideration with a view to adoption at MSC 80 in May 2005.

4 Member Governments are invited to bring the above information to the attention of all parties concerned.