

## INFORMATION LETTER 001-2007

to

all owners, managing owners and ship operators operating ships under the flag  
of Antigua and Barbuda

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS</b>
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>Outcome of the “Maritime Safety Committee” 82<sup>nd</sup> session (MSC 82, 28.11 – 08.12.2006) and A&amp;B SOLAS Circ. 02 001-06</b>

1. After 01 July 2006, when this Administration required the measures laid down in MSC.1/Circ. 1206 on a mandatory basis, a number of practical difficulties turned out. These difficulties are mainly related to the training and certification of service personnel from the manufacturer and the availability of such personnel.
2. Therefore this Administration will keep the MSC.1/Circ. 1206 on a non-mandatory basis at this stage until the difficulties mentioned above have been overcome.
3. The matter is also pending a decision of other IMO bodies until the final MSC decision becomes effective by 2010, at the latest.
4. At DE 50 (March 2007) it was decided to establish a Correspondence Group which was tasked to develop guidance for qualification and certification of personnel or organizations carrying out servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and onboard-release-gear particularly with regard to approval of personnel and facilities in accordance with Annex 1, para. 9 of MSC1/Circ. 1206.
5. ROs which already have enacted “conditions of class”, based on the above mentioned MSC.1/Circ. 1206, are requested to agree on “harmonized solutions” on this matter.
6. Also RO Germanischer Lloyd has taken up this matter in their GL-Infomail No. 1 out of February 2007.

Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping  
of Antigua and Barbuda