



INFORMATION LETTER 003-2010

to

all Owners, Managing Owners, Filing Agents and Crewing Companies operating ships and crew under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda;

all Classification Societies acting as Recognized Organizations for and on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

SOLAS 1974 (as amended) Chapter III Regulation 11.7

The Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) wishes to draw the attention of companies, masters, officers and classification societies to the requirements for survival craft muster and embarkation arrangements as required by SOLAS 1974, as amended, Chapter III, Reg. 11.7.

Remotely located liferafts required by regulation 31.1.4 may be permitted to use alternative devices approved by the Administration when applying the embarkation arrangements. Such devices must be in keeping with best industry practices and must enable descent to the water in a controlled manner in the interest of safety of seafarers trading on vessels flying the Flag of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Administration has decided to apply the terms of the above cited SOLAS Regulation in regards to liferafts required by regulation 31.1.4 as follows:

The liferafts shall be fitted with:

1. an embarkation ladder complying with section 6.1.6 of the LSA Code or
2. A Jacob's ladder complying with section 6.1.6 of the LSA Code or
3. Other means of embarkation enabling a controlled descent to survival craft subject to case to case approval by the Recognized Organization

In light of the foregoing a knotted rope shall **not** be accepted as means of embarkation for liferafts required by Regulation 31.1.4.

The above mentioned requirements shall apply to new buildings for which the keels are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 01 August 2010. Existing vessels shall comply with the above mentioned requirements as soon as practicably possible but in no event later than the first annual, periodical or renewal survey for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipments Certificate after 01 August 2010.

June 2010

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