

**Commonwealth of Dominica****Office of the Maritime Administrator**

**TO:** ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

**SUBJECT:** Equivalent arrangements accepted under SOLAS regulation I/5 concerning number and capacity of lifeboats and liferafts (SOLAS 74 Chapter III, Regulation 35(a)(i))

**REFERENCE:** (a) SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 35(a)(i)  
(b) SOLAS Chapter I, Regulation 5(a)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Circular is to bring to the attention of the shipowners, operators, masters and recognized organizations of Dominica flag vessels that Commonwealth of Dominica accepts under regulation I/5 equivalent arrangements concerning number and capacity of lifeboats and liferafts.

**APPLICABILITY:** Dominica flag cargo vessels of 500 gross tonnage and upwards, but less than 1600 gross tonnage, constructed before 1 July 1986; except tankers

**REQUIREMENTS:****1 SOLAS Regulations**

SOLAS 1974 Chapter III, Regulation 35(a)(i) reads:

*Every cargo ship, except ships employed as whale factory ships, fish processing or canning factory ships, and ships engaged in the carriage of persons employed in the whaling, fish processing or canning industries, shall carry lifeboats on each side of the ship of such aggregate capacity as will accommodate all persons on board, and in addition shall carry liferafts sufficient to accommodate half that number.*

**2 Equivalent arrangements**

2.1 This Administration accepts under the provision of regulation 5 of chapter I equivalent arrangements concerning number and capacity of lifeboats and liferafts.

2.2 In lieu of complying with the requirements of Regulation 35(a)(i) of Chapter III, ship is required to comply with the following conditions:

In lieu of lifeboats the ship is required to carry:

- 2.2.1. On each side of the ship one or more liferafts of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate the total number of persons on board, each liferaft being of approximately the same capacity.
- 2.2.2. Unless the liferafts required by paragraph 2.2.1 above can be readily transferred for launching on either side of the ship, additional liferafts shall be provided so that the total capacity available on each side will accommodate 150% of the total number on board.
- 2.2.3. In ships where the distance from the embarkation deck to the water in the lightest sea-going condition exceeds 4.5 meters (15 feet) the rafts required at 2.2.1 above are to be of the davit launched type and at least one launching appliance is to be provided on each side of the ship for every two rafts. The launching appliance should be capable of lowering the raft when fully loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment when the ship has a trim of up to 10 degrees and a list up to 15 degrees either way.
- 2.2.4. An approved rescue boat fitted with an accepted engine and capable of being launched on one side of the ship with its equipment and a launching crew of two persons when the ship is upright or listed up to 15 degrees towards that side.
- 2.2.5. A davit and winch of approved types to launch and recover the boat.

### 3 Ship certificates

- 3.1. When such equivalent arrangements have been applied, a note in this respect will have to be made in the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate.
- 3.2. In addition to a note on the SEC, an exemption certificate may also be issued.

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