

GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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Shipping Guidance Notice – 41

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

Extended Periods for Servicing of Liferrafts

1. A number of liferaft manufacturers now offer SOLAS approved, MED compliant inflatable liferafts which are designed for service intervals of up to 30 months. These are specially designed and packed to ensure that the liferafts;
 - a. can be operated using the normal control lines, and
 - b. remain protected throughout the extended servicing interval within a hermetically sealed membrane which resists water vapour transmission.
2. These specially packed liferafts may only be serviced at suitably equipped, approved service stations.
3. Owners / operators should be aware;
 - a. the 30 month period between servicing cannot be extended in the same manner that Flag States may extend service intervals for conventional inflatable liferafts in extenuating circumstances.
 - b. Hermetic seal verification must be performed at maximum intervals of 12 months from the date of the last service by a trained and certificated person.
4. The Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA) accepts the above liferafts approved under the Maritime Equipment Directive 96/98/EG as amended.
 - a. When the condition of the approval includes an extended period between servicing of up to 30 months this can be accepted on Gibraltar registered ship
 - b. The acceptance is conditional on compliance with the requirements of MSC.1/Circ.1328
5. The type approval may be carried out by any of the seven Recognized Organisations (RO's) authorized by the GMA . The seven RO's are;
 - a. ABS
 - b. Class NK

- c. BV
- d. DNV
- e. GL
- f. LR
- g. RINA

Alan Cubbin
Maritime Administrator

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