



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Guidance Notice – 078(a) **MSC.402(96) - Authorizations of Authorized Service Providers** *(To be read in conjunction with Shipping Guidance Notice – 078)*

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

References:

- MSC.402(96)
- SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 20
- Shipping Guidance Notice (SGN) - 078

Introduction

The purpose of this SGN, is to clarify Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA) requirements in respect of approvals for individual service providers wishing to conduct statutory work on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear on-board Gibraltar ships. GMA does not directly undertake such approvals. GMA accepts service providers authorised by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), or one of the UK/Gibraltar authorised Recognised Organisations (RO).

To maintain the validity of applicable international certification on Gibraltar ships, all thorough examinations, operational testing, repair and overhaul work undertaken on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear should be conducted in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable, and MSC.402(96). This SGN does not alter that requirement in any way.

The IMO has reviewed the process of authorisation of service providers as outlined in SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 to make clearer the responsibilities of relevant personnel at each stage of the life of equipment.

OEM and OEM Approved Service Providers

The OEM and OEM approved service providers do not require any further approval to conduct work on equipment manufactured by that OEM. Any service provider wishing to conduct service work on equipment other than that of the authorising OEM should seek authorisation from a UK/Gibraltar authorised RO or approval from the actual OEM, for the specific equipment on which they wish to undertake work, before commencing such work.

Authorisation of Service Providers by Recognised Organisations

Service providers (other than OEM and OEM approved service providers) wishing to conduct work on lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear fitted to UK ships, should approach a UK/Gibraltar authorised RO, and seek their authorisation as a service provider for the specific equipment on which they wish to undertake work, in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20, as applicable and MSC.402(96).

Authorisations issued for work in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable, and MSC.402(96) may not give automatic authority to conduct work on every type of equipment in accordance with these IMO instruments. It may be necessary for service providers to seek authorisation for each specific make and type of equipment on which they wish to undertake work.

Other than OEM and OEM approved service providers, only service providers authorised by a UK/Gibraltar authorised RO through an assessment against the provisions of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Z17 "Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers" and IMO MSC.402(96) will be accepted.

Any service provider found not to be meeting these requirements will be reported to the authorising RO, and the GMA may advise that the service provider will not be accepted for work on Gibraltar ships.

Action by Ship Operators

Ship operators should ensure that the service providers conducting work on their ships in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 as applicable and MSC.402(96), are authorised by either the OEM, or a UK/Gibraltar authorised RO.

Reporting of Concern

Any concerns about the activities of service providers conducting work in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.402(96), should be addressed in the first instance to the authorising body (OEM or UK/Gibraltar authorised RO), but if this does not resolve the concern, then such cases should be reported to the GMA.

Steve Gomez
Chief Surveyor (Ag)

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