

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: Early implementation of amendment to SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3 adopted by Resolution MSC.152(78)

**REFERENCE: (a) IMO Resolution MSC.152(78)
(b) IMO Circular MSC/Circ.1127**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Safety Circular is to advise the owners, operators, and masters of Dominica vessels that Commonwealth of Dominica is immediately implementing the June 2004 amendment to SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3, revoking the requirement that the operating crew be aboard the lifeboats at the time of launching during abandon ship drills. The amendment was originally scheduled to enter into force on 1 July 2006. However the early implementation of the amendment was approved at the seventy-ninth session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in December 2004.

APPLICABILITY: all Dominica flag vessels required to conduct periodically abandon ship drills, as per SOLAS regulation III/19.3

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1** It is brought to the attention of the Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers of Dominica flagged vessels that the June 2004 amendment to SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3, originally scheduled to enter into force on 1 July 2006, is being early implemented and immediately effective for Dominica flag vessels.
- 2** According to the amendment the crew is no longer required to be aboard the lifeboats at the time of launching during abandon ship drills.
- 3** Masters and Officers should take all necessary safety precautions and ensure that they do not subject the vessel's crew to new or additional risks when accessing the lifeboats in the water.

- end -

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to the Deputy Maritime Administrator
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