

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:** Amendments to the International Convention of Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS 1974)
- REFERENCE:** (a) International Maritime Act, 2000, Part III, Vessel Inspection
- PURPOSE:** This Circular recognizes the current edition of SOLAS and underscores that the fact that full effect is given to SOLAS, as amended, in carrying out vessel inspection responsibilities.
- APPLICABILITY:** Since the Commonwealth of Dominica is signatory to the SOLAS Convention, all amendments thereto are applicable to those ships registered under Dominica International Registry, including self-propelled Mobile Offshore Drilling Units.

REQUIREMENTS:**1.0 Current Edition of SOLAS****1.1 2001 Consolidated Edition**

This publication contains a consolidated text of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and all subsequent amendments up to and including the May 1999 amendments, except for the May 1998 amendments which have not yet entered into force.

1.2 1988 SOLAS Protocol

The International Conference on Harmonized System of Surveys and Certification (HSSC) 1988 adopted the SOLAS Protocol of 1988 and Load Lines Protocol of 1988. The 1988 Protocols introduced the harmonized system of surveys and certification under the 1974 SOLAS Convention and 1966 Load Line Convention. HSSC simplifies the

survey and certification requirements and reduces the burden on the Administration, owners and operators of ships, and crews.

1.3 Arrangement

The 2001 Consolidated Edition is arranged in two parts:

- a. part 1, which contains the 1974 SOLAS convention and 1988 SOLAS Protocol articles, requirements and certificates; and
- b. part 2, which contains resolution A.883(21) on the global and uniform application of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), a list of certificates and documents to be carried on board ships and a list of resolutions adopted by the SOLAS Conferences.

2.0 Compliance

The **operational** requirements contained in the consolidated text of the current editions are, in general, applicable to all ships, while the requirements for **ship construction and equipment** apply to ships constructed on or after the dates specified in the various regulations. To identify construction and equipment requirements applicable to ships constructed prior to 2001, previous texts of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, and the amendments to the Convention should be consulted.

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