



Ref. T4/4.01

MSC.1/Circ.1215
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**EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS CHAPTER III AND
THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE (LSA) CODE**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-first (10 to 19 May 2006) and eighty-second (29 November to 8 December 2006) sessions, adopted amendments to SOLAS chapter III and the LSA Code (resolutions MSC.201(81), MSC.207(81), MSC.216(82) and MSC.218(82)). These amendments improve the repeatability of test procedures and reduce the effects of variability of human test subjects on test results for personal life-saving appliances, thus promoting consistent application of the desired level of performance to this equipment; resolve a number of long-standing inconsistencies in IMO instruments relating to life-saving appliances; and introduce other important safety improvements (particularly with regard to measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats).

2 Recognizing that considerable time will pass before the amendments referred to above will enter into force, to encourage early implementation of the important safety improvements addressed therein, and to ensure that equipment tested and approved according to the new requirements is readily available when the amendments enter into force, the Committee, at its eighty-second session, urged Contracting Governments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention to implement the aforementioned amendments prior to their scheduled dates of entry into force.

3 The Committee further urged Contracting Governments to provide appropriate documentation for ships flying their flag to which such early implementation has been granted and port States to accept such early implementation.