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**SERVICING OF LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND RADIOCOMMUNICATION
EQUIPMENT UNDER THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND
CERTIFICATION (HSSC)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), considered the servicing intervals of inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, marine evacuation systems, inflated rescue boats, hydrostatic release units and satellite EPIRBs, required by regulations III/20.8, III/20.9 and IV/15.9 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended, as well as regulations I/8 and I/9 of the 1988 SOLAS Protocol on the HSSC.

The servicing intervals of the aforementioned life-saving appliances and satellite EPIRBs required by SOLAS regulations III/20.8, III/20.9 and IV/15.9, respectively, shall not exceed 12 months which may be extended to 17 months where in any case this is impracticable in exceptional circumstances. In the meantime, according to regulations I/8 and I/9 of the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, the said appliances shall be subjected to an annual or a periodical survey within 3 months before or after each anniversary of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate and of the Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate, respectively, or the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, *i.e.* maximum 18 months interval.

2 The Committee noted that there is a difference between the relevant regulations of chapters III and IV of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended, and regulations I/8 and I/9 of the 1988 SOLAS Protocol in terms of servicing intervals, which creates inconvenience and burden both for ship operators and for Administrations which are implementing the HSSC.

3 The Committee also noted that the 1988 SOLAS Protocol entered into force on 3 February 2000 and resolution A.883(21) "Global and Uniform Implementation of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)" was adopted, in November 1999, enabling the provisions of the HSSC to be implemented internationally.

4 The Committee, in pursuance of the HSSC's objectives to "simplify survey requirements, thereby reducing the burden on Administrations, operators of ships and the crews of ships", decided that:

"the servicing intervals of life-saving appliances and radiocommunication equipment for ships, whose flag States implement the HSSC, may be in concert with the terms of the HSSC annual, periodical and renewal survey stipulated in the 1988 SOLAS Protocol notwithstanding regulations III/20.8, III/20.9 and IV/15.9 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended".

5 Member Governments are invited to apply the above decision when conducting relevant surveys and port State control on ships, whose flag States implement the HSSC.