



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code) and the Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances (Resolution MSC.81(70))

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolutions MSC.554(108) and MSC.563(108) and to advise the parties concerned of the amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (the "LSA Code") and the *Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances* by virtue of resolution MSC.81(70). The amendments to the LSA Code will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 108th session adopted the resolutions MSC.554(108) and MSC.563(108) on 23 May 2024 to amend the LSA Code and the *Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances* (MSC.81(70)) (the "Revised Recommendation").
2. Chapter II of the LSA Code is amended to improve the minimum in-water performance standards for SOLAS lifejackets. Chapter IV of the LSA Code is amended to ensure adequate safety standards for lifeboats and rescue boats fitted with single fall and hook systems. The amendments to Chapter VI of the LSA Code address the issue on the lowering speed of fully loaded survival craft and rescue boats.
3. In view of the above-mentioned change in Chapter II and VI of the amended LSA Code, the Revised Recommendation with regard to the test of SOLAS lifejackets and fully loaded survival craft and rescue boats, is therefore modified by Resolution MSC.563(108) accordingly. The relevant provisions under paragraphs 2.8 of Part 1 and 6.1 of Part 2 of the annex to Resolution MSC.81(70) are amended to align with the associated amendments to the LSA Code as specified in the aforesaid Resolution MSC.554(108).

4. The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2026 and are to be applied to life-saving appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026, where the expression “*installed on or after 1 January 2026*”, means:

- (a) for ships for which the building contract is placed on or after 1 January 2026, or in the absence of the contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2026, all installations of the specified type on board those ships; or
- (b) for ships other than those ships specified in (a) above, all installations of the specified type, having a contractual delivery date for the equipment or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date to the ship, actually delivered to the ship on or after 1 January 2026.

5. The details of resolutions MSC.554(108) and MSC.563(108) can be found on the website of the Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/legislation/notices/msin/index.html>) as attachments to this Information Note.

6. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are reminded to apply the above amendments when installation of life-saving appliances.

Marine Department
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