



Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais,
Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

Direção de Serviços de Administração Marítima

Avenida Brasília 1449-030 LISBOA, PORTUGAL
Telefone: 21 3035700 - Fax: 21 3035702

Circular N.º 30
Rev.1

Approved: 08-02-2017

Pages: 9

Subject:	Life-saving appliances - Inflatable Liferafts, Marine Evacuation Systems (MES), Inflatable Lifejackets and Hydrostatic Releases
To:	Owners/Operators/Shipowners/Companies of Portuguese Flagged Vessels, Recognized Organizations, Masters and Skippers of Portuguese Flagged Vessels, Service Station Personnel

References: Decree-Law n.º 103/95 of 19 May, concerning the approval and certification regime of duly authorized service stations for periodic revisions of inflatable liferafts and their hydrostatic releases; Ordinance n.º 1232/95 of 11 October, establishing the conditions to be observed by service stations and the regulations to be applied on liferaft periodical servicing; IMO Resolution A.761(18), “Recommendation on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable liferafts”, as amended; Decree-Law n.º 9/2001 of 18 January, concerning the legal framework applicable to life-saving appliances of national registered vessels introducing amendments to the “Regulamento dos Meios de Salvação” attached to Decree-Law n.º 191/98, of 10 July; SOLAS Regulation III/20 on Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections; Decree-Law n.º 106/2004 of 8 May, which applies the SOLAS Convention, its protocol and the current amendments to national vessels; Decree-Law n.º 248/2000 of 3 October establishing a safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 meters and above; Decree-Law n.º 293/2001 of 2 November, which extends to passengers vessels in domestic voyages the application of certain rules of the SOLAS Convention; Decree-Law n.º 155/2003, of 17 July, establishing an harmonized safety regime for fishing vessels with 24 metres length or more, being also applicable to all vessel encompassed by Decree-Law n.º 248/2000, of 3 October.

Live-saving Appliances should be regularly serviced at an approved service station

M-DSAM-02(1)

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1. APPROVED SERVICE STATIONS

1.1 An “Approved Service Station” is one that has been formally accredited by the manufacturer of inflatable liferafts and has been approved by Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos (DGRM), the Portuguese Maritime Administration, from this point and onwards the **Administration**, as competent authority for the approval and certification of service stations. It has certified personnel who have been qualified and trained by manufacturers of inflatable liferafts to undertake servicing, repairs and also to repack liferafts ready for operational use using genuine spares, and is kept fully informed of all servicing procedures updates by the manufacturers.

1.2 The approval of service stations is conducted in accordance not only with IMO Resolution A.761(18)¹, as amended - “Recommendations on Conditions for the approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts”, but also under the framework of Decree-Law n.º 103/95 and Ordinance n.º 1232/95 referred in *References*.

1.3 Prior to submission of the application to become an approved and certified service station by the Administration, service stations shall ensure their accreditation by manufacturers of inflatable liferafts. The approval is subject to an initial survey and depends of the compliance with the requirements put through in Ordinance n.º 1232/95, of 11 October; upon verification of the approval conditions, the Administration issues the relevant certificate, valid for a year, and renewable after a renewal survey.

1.4 Companies and/or Masters/Skippers of Portuguese flagged vessels should verify prior sending inflatable liferafts into a service station, the continued approval of the service station. An updated list of ["Approved Service Stations"](#) in mainland Portugal, Madeira and Azores Islands is available online at DGRM's website.

¹ IMO Resolution A.761(18) - “Recommendation on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable liferafts”, adopted on 4 November 1993, with the amendments introduced by Resolution MSC.55(66) adopted on 30 May 1996 and MSC.388(93), adopted on 18 November 2014

1.5 In those cases where inflatable liferafts need to be serviced, but they are not manufactured by one of the companies with a Portuguese service station, the Company or their legal representative and/or the Master/Skipper should contact the manufacturer to get the necessary information of the more adequate location of the approved service station.

1.6 The Administration highly recommends Owners/Operators and/or Masters/Skippers of Portuguese flagged vessels owing inflatable liferafts other than those used by merchant ships, fishing vessels or maritime-tourism activity crafts, to undertake the revision and servicing of inflatable liferafts on an “approved service station”.

2. SERVICE INTERVALS

2.1 Inflatable Liferafts Service Intervals

2.1.1 Unless otherwise described in legislation, every inflatable liferaft shall be serviced at intervals not exceeding 12 months. In exceptional circumstances, when it is justifiably impracticable to comply with this annual servicing requirement, an extended period of no more than 5 months may be granted. In such cases Shipowners/Companies or Masters/Skippers should apply, in person or by email, to the central services of the Maritime Administration or to any of the inspecting areas of Madeira, Azores or Leixões, stating in writing, the reason for seeking such an extension. The [Application](#) as well as the form showed in [Annex I](#), which may be downloaded from DGRM’s webpage, have to be filled in and sent together with a copy of the latest certificate of inspection of the liferaft to dsam.requerimentos@dgrm.mm.gov.pt.

2.1.2 Periodic inspections of inflatable liferafts of Portuguese flagged vessels, when done abroad, can only be carried out in service stations which are, simultaneously, accredited by the corresponding manufacturers and approved service stations by the Maritime Administration of that country.

2.1.3 To be compliant with the national legislation, Shipowners/Companies or their legal representatives and/or Masters/Skippers of all Portuguese flagged vessels shall, with the exclusion of those registered in the International Register of Shipping of Madeira (RINMAR), in the eight days following the date of the inspection, provide DGRM a copy

of the supporting documentation referring to the periodic survey (re-inspection certificate and survey report), where the expiry date shall be clearly highlighted.

2.2 Inflatable Lifejackets Service Intervals

2.2.1 The inflatable lifejackets to be used on board of both merchant and fishing vessels shall be serviced at a service station accredited by the manufacturer for that purpose, and the inspections shall be due at intervals not exceeding 12 months. DGRM may grant, in exceptional cases when it is justifiably impracticable to comply with this annual servicing requirement, an extended period of no more than 5 months. In such cases Shipowners/Companies or Masters/Skippers should apply, in person or by email, to the central services of the Maritime Administration or to any of the inspecting areas of Madeira, Azores or Leixões, stating in writing, the reason for seeking such an extension. The [Application](#) as well as the form showed in [Annex II](#), which may be downloaded from DGRM's webpage, have to be filled in and sent together with a copy of the latest certificate of inspection of the lifejacket to dsam.requerimentos@dgrm.mm.gov.pt.

3. SERVICE INTERVALS EXEMPTIONS

3.1 The Administration also allows servicing intervals of up to 30 months for certain kind of equipment (liferafts) for the first ten years of their service lives², when it is specially packed to allow for extended service intervals. These rafts must be approved in accordance with Council Directive 96/98/EC on Marine Equipment, have the details of the extended service interval on their Marine Equipment Directive certificate and be also compliant with the requirements of IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1328.

3.2 The Administration reminds Shipowners/Companies and Masters/Skippers of Portuguese flagged vessels that even though servicing of these liferafts is only required at extended service intervals, which do not exceed 30 months, Circular MSC.1/Circ.1328 requires an onboard inspection, which is an inspection carried out on board a ship to verify the conditions of liferafts without adversely affecting the protective arrangements, by inspection personnel,

² This 10-year limitation may be extended if real time verification justifies acceptance by the Administration.

at intervals not exceeding 12 months either from the last service or from the last onboard inspection.

3.3 Inspection personnel is personnel duly certified to carry out onboard inspections, which are, in the interpretation of the Administration, qualified persons who have been adequately trained and certified by the liferaft manufacturer, at intervals defined by the manufacturer itself.

3.4 The use of this liferafts with extended service intervals is not allowed on fishing vessels.

4. MARINE EVACUATION SYSTEMS (MES)

4.1 SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 3.14 defines *Marine Evacuation System (MES)* as an appliance for the rapid transfer of persons from the embarkation deck of a ship to a floating survival craft.

4.2 These systems shall be revised every 12 months at an approved service station, and in cases where it is justifiably impracticable to comply with this annual servicing requirement, it may be extended for a period of no more than 5 months. In such cases Shipowners/Companies or Masters/Skippers should apply, in person or by email, to the central services of the Maritime Administration or to any of the inspecting areas of Madeira, Azores or Leixões, stating in writing, the reason for seeking such an extension. The [Application](#) as well as the form showed in [Annex III](#) which may be downloaded from DGRM's webpage, have to be filled in and sent together with a copy of the latest MES certificate of inspection to dsam.requerimentos@dgrm.mm.gov.pt.

4.3 In addition to annual testing, which allows the maintenance for readiness, the only opportunity to assess the system ability to deploy in an emergency is the 6 year rotational deployment, where the whole system shall be disassembled and tested.

5. HYDROSTATIC RELEASES

5.1 Every hydrostatic release not considered as disposal packaging shall be inspected at intervals not exceeding 12 months at an approved service station. In cases where it is justifiably impracticable to comply with this annual servicing requirement, it may be extended for a period of no more than 5 months. Shipowners/Companies or captains/masters should apply, in person or by email, to the central services of the Maritime Administration or in any of the inspecting areas of Madeira, Azores or Leixões, explaining their reasons in writing for seeking such an extension. The [Application](#), which may be downloaded from DGRM's webpage, have to be filled in and sent together with a copy of the latest certificate of inspection of the hydrostatic release to dsam.requerimentos@dgrm.mm.gov.pt.

6. CHARGES and FEES

There is a specific fee for all applications mentioned in 2.1.1 and 2.2.1. Both national legislation and the [current rates](#) may be downloaded from DGRM's webpage.

Lisbon, 8th February 2017

The Director of the Maritime Administration Services Directorate

For further information please contact:

Direção Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos

Avenida Brasília 1449 - 030 LISBOA, PORTUGAL

Tel: (+351) 213 035 700

Fax: (+351) 213 035 702

Linha Azul: (+351) 213 035 703

www.dgrm.mm.gov.pt

E-mail: dsam.secretariado@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

ANNEX I

DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE RECURSOS NATURAIS SEGURANÇA E SERVIÇOS MARÍTIMOS

PRORROGAÇÃO DO PRAZO DE REVISÃO DE JANGADA PNEUMÁTICA

Liferaft, extended period of service

Exmo. Senhor

Diretor-Geral

To: Director-General

O Comandante /Mestre

Master /Skipper

Nome do navio

Name of ship

solicita a prorrogação do prazo de revisão periódica da jangada pneumática (justificação):
requires the extension of the regular service for inflatable liferaft (justification):

Fabricante
Manufacturer

Tipo
Type

Última Revisão
Last Service

Nº de Série
Serial nr.

O abaixo-assinado declara que o equipamento está completo e em bom estado.
The undersigned declares that the equipment is complete and in good order.

Local e data

..... ,

O Comandante / Mestre
Master /Skipper

INFORMAÇÃO TÉCNICA DA DIREÇÃO DE SERVIÇOS DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO MARÍTIMA:

Technical information of the Maritime Administration Services

Autorizada a prorrogação até
Extension of the period of service authorized until / /

Não autorizada a prorrogação, devido a
Extension of period adjustment not authorized, due to

Local e data
Place and date

..... ,

O Inspetor
The Inspector

O Diretor
The Director

ANNEX II

DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE RECURSOS NATURAIS SEGURANÇA E SERVIÇOS MARÍTIMOS

PRORROGAÇÃO DO PRAZO DE REVISÃO DE COLETE DE SALVAÇÃO INSUFLÁVEL

Inflatable Lifejacket, extended period of service

Exmo. Senhor

Diretor-Geral

To: Director-General

O Comandante / Mestre

Master / Skipper

Nome do navio

Name of ship

solicita a prorrogação do prazo de revisão periódica do colete de salvação insuflável (justificação):
requires the extension of the regular service for inflatable lifejacket (justification):

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.....
.....

Fabricante
Manufacturer

Tipo
Type

Última Revisão
Last Service

Nº de Série
Serial nr.

O abaixo-assinado declara que o equipamento está completo e em bom estado.
The undersigned declares that the equipment is complete and in good order.

Local e data

..... ,

O Comandante / Mestre
Master / Skipper

INFORMAÇÃO TÉCNICA DA DIREÇÃO DE SERVIÇOS DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO MARÍTIMA:

Technical information of the Maritime Administration Services

Autorizada a prorrogação até
Extension of the period of service authorized until / /

Não autorizada a prorrogação, devido a
Extension of period adjustment not authorized, due to

Local e data
Place and date

..... ,

O Inspetor
The Inspector

O Diretor
The Director

ANNEX III

DIREÇÃO-GERAL DE RECURSOS NATURAIS SEGURANÇA E SERVIÇOS MARÍTIMOS

PRORROGAÇÃO DO PRAZO DE REVISÃO DE SISTEMA DE EVACUAÇÃO PARA O MAR

Marine Evacuation System extended period of service

Exmo. Senhor

Diretor-Geral

To: Director-General

O Comandante /Mestre

Master /Skipper

Nome do navio

Name of ship

solicita a prorrogação do prazo de revisão periódica do sistema de evacuação para o mar (justificação):
requires the extension of the regular service for marine evacuation system (justification):

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.....
.....

Fabricante
Manufacturer

Tipo
Type

Última Revisão
Last Service

Nº de Série
Serial nr.

O abaixo-assinado declara que o equipamento está completo e em bom estado.
The undersigned declares that the equipment is complete and in good order.

Local e data
Place and date

..... ,

O Comandante / Mestre
Master /Skipper

.....

INFORMAÇÃO TÉCNICA DA DIREÇÃO DE SERVIÇOS DE ADMINISTRAÇÃO MARÍTIMA:

Technical information of the Maritime Administration Services

Autorizada a prorrogação até
Extension of the period of service authorized until / /

Não autorizada a prorrogação, devido a
Extension of period adjustment not authorized, due to

Local e data
Place and date

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O Inspetor
The Inspector

O Diretor
The Director

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