



SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
EQUIPMENT
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Agenda item 19

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APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS CHAPTER III AND THE LSA CODE

Proposed clarification to the LSA and FSS Codes

Submitted by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document proposes a more permanent solution to ensure that the scope of application of future amendments to SOLAS chapter III and the LSA Code are clear. Also, a consequential revision to the FSS Code is proposed.
Strategic Direction:	2
High-level Action:	2.0.1
Planned output:	2.0.1.25
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 7
Related documents:	MSC 86/20/1, MSC 86/WP.3, MSC 86/26 (paragraph 23.31 and annex 7); DE 53/19, DE 53/19/2; MSC 86/WP.3; MSC.1/Circ.1304 and MSC.1/Circ.1313

Introduction

1 In considering documents MSC 86/20/1 (IACS) and MSC 86/WP.3 (Secretariat), concerning the application dates for amendments to SOLAS chapter III and the FSS and LSA Codes, the Committee agreed that the matter was complex and that the appropriate course of action would be for this Sub-Committee to consider the issue under a new work program item (paragraph 23.31 of document MSC 86/26 refers).

2 In document DE 53/19/2, IACS presents its point of view on what it believes to be a sound and correct application statement for the current SOLAS chapter III regulations.

A more permanent solution

3 In light of the current effort to clarify the application of the existing regulations, IACS considers that a more permanent fix is desirable so as to ensure that uncertainties in the application of future revisions to SOLAS III and the LSA Code do not occur.

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4 Noting the approach agreed by the Maritime Safety Committee in MSC.1/Circ.1304 and MSC.1/Circ.1313, the following course of action is proposed:

- .1 SOLAS chapter III should be amended taking into account the outcome of the Sub-Committee's consideration of DE 53/19/2, annex 1; and
- .2 the LSA Code should be amended to include an application paragraph similar to that in the FSS Code, including the proposed amendment noted in MSC.1/Circ.1313. In this regard IACS offers the following text for the Sub-Committee's consideration:

"1 Application

- 1.1 This code is applicable to life-saving appliances as referred to in chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended.*
- 1.2 Unless expressly provided otherwise, this Code is applicable for the life-saving appliances of ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 July 1998.*
- 1.3 However, amendments to the Code adopted after 1 July 1998 shall, unless expressly provided otherwise, apply only to ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction, on or after the date on which the amendments enter into force, and as required by regulation 1.4.2 of SOLAS chapter III to ships the keels of which were laid or were at a similar stage of construction before that date."*

5 With regard to the phrase "*and as required by regulation 1.4.2 of SOLAS chapter III to ships the keels of which were laid or were at a similar stage of construction before that date*", as proposed in paragraph 4 above, IACS notes that a similar phrase is not included in the draft amendments to the FSS Code which were approved at MSC 86 (see MSC 86/26, annex 7), but that such text is completely in line with SOLAS regulation II-2/1.3.2.

6 If the Sub-Committee was to agree with the proposal in paragraph 4 above for the LSA Code, it may also wish to propose to the Committee that a comparable phrase be added to chapter 1, section 1, paragraph 1.2 of the FSS Code (MSC 86/26, annex 7), which would read as follows (additional text to that provided in MSC 86/26, annex 7, is shown as underlined):

However, amendments to the Code adopted after 1 July 2002 shall apply only to ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction, on or after the date on which the amendments enter into force, unless expressly provided otherwise, and as required by regulation 1.3.2 of SOLAS chapter II-2 to ships the keels of which were laid or were at a similar stage of construction before that date.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the proposed revisions of SOLAS III and the LSA Code as explained in paragraph 4 above, and the consequential proposed amendment to the FSS Code as explained in paragraph 6 above, and take action as appropriate.