



SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
EQUIPMENT
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Agenda item 4

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COMPATIBILITY OF LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES

Approved carrying capacity of liferafts

Submitted by International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document provides comments on the approved carrying capacity of liferafts.
Strategic direction:	5.1
High-level action:	5.1.2
Planned output:	5.1.2.2
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 5
Related document:	LSA Code, paragraph 4.1.2.1

Introduction

1 Paragraph 4.1.2.1 of the LSA Code provides as follows regarding the approved carrying capacity of liferafts:

“No liferaft shall be approved which has a carrying capacity of less than six persons calculated in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 4.2.3 or 4.3.3, as appropriate.”.

Discussion

2 In the last decade or so, the capacities of cruise vessels and passenger ferries have increased and this has led to manufacturers of survival crafts applying for type approval certification of liferafts having carrying capacities that sometimes exceed 150 persons.

3 While the maximum carrying capacity of lifeboats is limited to 150 persons, as specified in paragraph 4.4.2.1 of the LSA Code, IACS notes that the Code does not place a similar restriction on the maximum carrying capacity of liferafts.

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4 Considering that chapter IV of the LSA Code was developed a number of years ago primarily for liferafts within a capacity range of 6 to 35 persons, IACS believes it is debatable whether the provisions in the Code were developed having in mind any necessary additional safety measures to address the designs of larger capacity liferafts, such as considering an upper limit on the capacity of such liferafts, or the possibility of any consequential effects, such as on the towing and handling of such liferafts by a rescue boat.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the comments provided in paragraphs 2 to 4 above and take action as considered appropriate.
