

PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY

**Directorate General of Merchant Marine
International Representative Office, N.Y.**

Merchant Marine Circular No. 142

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Ships and Class Societies

Subject: Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD) **REVISED**

Reference: SOLAS 74, 2000 amendments

1. Purpose

This Merchant Marine Circular replaces MMC 119 and Interpretation of Merchant Marine Circular 122 (item 18).

2. Application

The 2000 amendments to SOLAS 74, Chapter II-2, Reg. 13 require Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD) which will be used for escape from a compartment that has a hazardous atmosphere. The EEBD have become mandatory under the new amendments for all ships to which the safety equipment certificate is required. The application of EEBDs provisions onboard Panama flag ships shall be as follow:

3. Number of EEBDs

- .1 At least two (2) EEBDs in accommodation. Applicable to new and existing ships other than passenger ships.
- .2 At least two (2) EEBDs per main vertical zone. Applicable to new and existing passenger ships carrying not more than 36 passengers.
- .3 At least four (4) EEBDs per main vertical zone. Applicable to new and existing passenger ships carrying more than 36 passengers.
- .4 For the purpose of this requirement (based on UI MSC/Circ. 1081), the minimum number of EEBDs required on machinery spaces shall be as follows:
 - .1 One (1) EEBD at the engine control room if located inside the machinery space.
 - .2 One (1) EEBD at the machine shop or work shop area.
 - .3 One (1) EEBD located near the escape ladder used a second means of escape from the machinery space.

If the ship has a machinery space with more than one deck, then one (1) EEBD for each deck shall be placed at the same area as in point (.3)

4. Spares

At least two (2) sets of spare EEBDs shall be provided on board either in the area of navigation bridge, fire control station or storage room. Applicable to new and existing ships.

Additional to the above requirements, the EEBD shall have a service duration of at least 10 minutes. Also, the number and location of EEBDs and spares shall be indicated in the fire control plan.

For existing ships, the requirement is to be complied with by the first survey after 1 July 2002.. For more reference, the 2000 amendments to SOLAS 74, Chapter II-2, Reg. 1.2.2 clarify the applicable requirements to existing ships.

The detailed technical standards for the EEBD, are separately provided in a mandatory code called "The International Code for the Fire Safety System (FSS Code)" adopted simultaneously.

Note: "New ships" cited above means ships constructed on or after 1 July 2002 and "Existing ships" means ships constructed prior to that date.

Authorized Organizations are instructed to follow the above mentioned guidelines, before issuing the appropriate certificate..

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