

Panama Maritime Authority
Directorate General of Merchant Marine
International Representative Office, New York

Merchant Marine Circular No. 119

To: Owners/Operators of Panamanian Ships and Class Societies

Subject: Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD)

Reference: SOLAS 74, 2000 amendments

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:

Number of EEBDs.

- a) At least two (2) EEBDs in accommodation. Applicable to new and existing ships other than passenger ships.
- b) At least two (2) EEBDs per main vertical zone. Applicable to new and existing passenger ships carrying not more than 36 passengers.
- c) At least four (4) EEBDs per main vertical zone. Applicable to new and existing passenger ships carrying more than 36 passengers
- d) The number of EEBDs in machinery spaces should be the maximum number of persons (i.e. engineers and ratings) working during a normal day of operation, but the maximum number will not exceed six (6) devices. The EEBDs in machinery spaces, shall be situated ready for use at easily visible places, which can be reached quickly and easily at any time in the event of fire. Applicable to new and existing ships.

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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