



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
General Directorate of Merchant Marine**

Merchant Marine Circular No. 194

To: All Recognized Organizations

Subject: Approval of the use of Viking Liferaft Type S30

References: SOLAS Chapter III, Rule 20

The purpose of this circular is to inform all parties concerned that the Panama Maritime Authority has approved the use of the Viking Liferaft Type S30 onboard Panamanian Flag vessels.

The approval by Panama Maritime Authority of this liferaft has been given by taking into consideration what is established on Regulation 20.8.3 of Chapter III SOLAS Convention which indicates the following:

8.3. An Administration which approves new and novel inflatable liferaft arrangements pursuant to [regulation 4](#) may allow for extended service intervals on the following conditions:

8.3.1. The new and novel liferaft arrangement has proved to maintain the same standard, as required by testing procedure, during extended service intervals.

8.3.2. The liferaft system shall be checked on board by certified personnel according to paragraph 8.1.1.

8.3.3. Service at intervals not exceeding five (5) years shall be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Organization.

This Administration considers that the Viking Liferaft S30 provides safety standards and has successfully undergone evaluation and testing in accordance with recommendations of the Convention.

These liferafts have proactive wrapping concept for 30 months packed liferaft which includes inside environment and more ways to monitor the liferaft condition inside the sealed compartment during the installation onboard the ship.

The different types of Viking Liferaft S30 approved to be used onboard Panamanian Flag vessels are:

