



## New SOLAS Requirements regarding Plans and Procedures for Recovery of Persons from the Water



The IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 91st Session (November 2012), adopted amendments to SOLAS which contain the new Regulation III/17-1 "Recovery of persons from the water". These amendments enter into force on 1 July 2014.

For the preparation of these plans and procedures, IMO developed Guidelines for the development of plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water (MSC.1/Circ.1447).

These Guidelines in turn refer to MSC.1/Circ.1182 and MSC.1/Circ.1185/Rev.1.



### ■ Application

SOLAS Regulation III/17-1 requires all ships to be provided with ship-specific plans and procedures for recovery of persons from the water.

The plans and procedures should identify the equipment intended to be used for recovery purposes and measures to be taken to minimize the risk to shipboard personnel involved in recovery operations.

Ships constructed before 1 July 2014 shall comply with this requirement by the first periodical or renewal safety equipment survey of the ship to be carried out after 1 July 2014, whichever comes first.

Ro-ro passenger ships which comply with regulation III/26.4 shall be deemed to comply with this regulation.

The Plans and Procedures should be considered as a part of the emergency preparedness plan required by paragraph 8 of the ISM Code.

### ■ Procedures

The recovery plans and procedures should facilitate the transfer of persons from the water to the ship while minimizing the risk of injury from impact with the ship's side or other structures, including the recovery appliance itself.

### ■ Risk Assessment

The Plans and Procedures should contain risk assessments for all recovery methods under consideration, taking into account the equipment to be used, anticipated environmental conditions and ship-specific characteristics.

**AMC has prepared numerous Plans and Procedures for Recovery of Persons from the Water for various types of vessels and can assist in the preparation of subject manuals in accordance with SOLAS requirements.**

Sample Plans and Procedures for Recovery of Persons from the Water are available [here](#).