



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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Shipboard Equipment and Service Provider Approvals

1.0 Introduction

This Technical Circular takes effect on **1 January 2020** and at that time will supersede Technical Circular 1, Rev.5. It addresses:

- shipboard equipment and systems that require approval by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Administrator (the “Administrator”);
- service provider approvals; and
- recognized independent testing laboratories.

2.0 Background

2.1 International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions often require that shipboard equipment be “to the satisfaction of the Administration”, or in compliance with a specified IMO standard, specification, or guideline. In many instances, equipment that is accepted by the classification society as part of the vessel classification process will automatically satisfy these requirements.

2.2 Some lifesaving, fire detecting/extinguishing, navigation, pollution prevention, radio, safety equipment, and ballast water management equipment and systems can fall outside this category in that it is not always evaluated or accepted as part of the vessel classification process. As such, some of this equipment has traditionally been approved by Administrations and the policies and procedures below are intended to address these approvals.

3.0 Equipment Approvals

3.1 Recognized Organization Authorizations

The Administrator has authorized its Recognized Organizations (ROs) to approve equipment to applicable IMO instruments on behalf of the RMI.

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3.2 Approvals by Another State

- 3.2.1 The Administrator will accept equipment approvals granted by another State that is a Party to the relevant convention, or an RMI RO acting on behalf of that Party.
- 3.2.2 On a case-by-case basis, the Administrator may accept equipment approvals granted by another State that is not a Party to the applicable Statutory Convention.
- 3.2.3. The Administrator will accept equipment approved under European Union Marine Equipment Directive (MED) 2014/90/EU, as amended.

3.3 Existing Equipment

Existing equipment, which was manufactured, tested, installed, and accepted by the Administrator under previous SOLAS Convention requirements, may continue to be used provided it remains in serviceable condition.

3.4 Lifesaving Appliances and Equipment

Newly installed lifesaving equipment must comply with the relevant SOLAS and International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code requirements and the relevant IMO guidelines. IMO Resolution [MSC.81\(70\)](#), *Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-saving Appliances, as amended*¹ must be applied when approving life-saving appliances.

3.5 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons

The equipment approval procedures for Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) and satellite terminals differ from those above in that:

- EPIRBs must be approved by COSPAS SARSAT.
- Satellite terminals must be approved by a recognized mobile satellite service provider (either INMARSAT or IRIDIUM).

The Administrator will accept equipment endorsements from these organizations.

¹ IMO Resolution MSC. 81 (70) has been amended by IMO Resolution MSC. 200(80), adopted 13 May 2005; IMO Resolution MSC. 226(82), adopted 8 December 2006; IMO Resolution MSC. 274(85), adopted 4 December 2008; IMO Resolution MSC. 295(87), adopted 21 May 2010; IMO Resolution MSC. 321 (89), adopted 20 May 2011; IMO Resolution MSC. 323(89), adopted 20 May 2011; IMO Resolution MSC. 378(93), adopted 20 May 2011; and IMO Resolution MSC 427(98), adopted 15 June 2017.

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3.6 Type Approval Certificates

3.6.1 The type approval certification scheme is generally accepted by flag States as confirmation that equipment conforms to recognized industry quality standards, international conventions or classification society rules.

3.6.2 The expiry of the Type Approval Certificate has no influence on the operational validity of a product accepted and installed onboard a ship prior to such expiry.

3.6.3 A product manufactured during the validity period of the relevant Type Approval Certificate need not be renewed or replaced due to expiration of such Type Approval Certificate.

See IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1221](#), *Validity of Type Approval Certification for Marine Products*, issued 11 December 2006.

4.0 Service Provider Approvals - SOLAS III/20 and III/36

4.1 Beginning 1 January 2020, a service provider, or manufacturer acting as a service provider, must be authorized by the Administrator according to IMO Resolution [MSC.402\(96\)](#) prior to providing maintenance, examination, testing, overhaul or repair of:

.1 lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats);

.2 rescue boats;

.3 fast rescue boats;

.4 launching appliances; and

.5 on-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliance for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and davit-launched life rafts.

4.2 Authorized service provider listings are maintained by the Administrator's ROs who have been delegated the authority to ensure that the service providers meet the IMO Resolution [MSC.402\(96\)](#) requirements. These requirements must be met whether the entity

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conducting the service is a service provider, or a manufacturer acting as a service provider².

- 4.3 Where a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, the Administrator may authorize service providers for the equipment based on prior authorization for the equipment and/or long-term experience and demonstrated expertise as an authorized service provider.
- 4.4 A service provider certificate issued under [MSC.1/Circ.1277](#), *Interim Recommendation on Conditions for Authorization of Service Providers for Lifeboats, Launching Appliance and On-Load Release Gear*, and in accordance with URZ17 will remain valid after 1 January 2020 up until its expiry date, but in no case later than 31 December 2022. Resolution MSC.402(96) will be applied to certificates issued on or after 1 January 2020.

5.0 Servicing Station Approvals - SOLAS III/20.8

- 5.1 SOLAS requires the following to be serviced at approved servicing facilities and using properly trained personnel:
- .1 inflatable life rafts,
 - .2 inflatable lifejackets,
 - .3 marine evacuation systems, and
 - .4 inflated rescue boats

The Administrator does not approve service providers for other equipment, unless the approval is mandated by convention requirements.

- 5.2 The Administrator endorses IMO Assembly Resolution [A.761\(18\)](#), *Recommendation on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts*, as amended³, and requires its application as appropriate.
- 5.3 There are presently no servicing facilities for this equipment in the RMI. If facilities in the RMI are established in the future, they must be certified according to the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Unified Requirement Z17 and IMO Assembly Resolution [A.716\(18\)](#), as amended.

²This means that an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) does not need to be authorized to service its own equipment. An OEM does need to be authorized when it is servicing equipment that is not its own and is considered a service provider in such cases.

³ Amended by IMO Resolution [MSC.55\(66\)](#) and IMO Resolution [MSC.388\(94\)](#).

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- 5.4 In countries other than the RMI, the Administrator may accept servicing facility approvals granted by another State that is a Party to the applicable Statutory Convention, or an RO on behalf of the Administrator or other Party to the applicable Statutory Convention, provided that the approvals comply fully with Convention requirements. These approvals must also comply with (IMO) Assembly Resolution [A.761\(18\)](#), as amended by IMO Resolution [MSC.55\(66\)](#), and [MSC.388\(94\)](#)⁴.
- 5.5 The Administrator may also consider accepting, on a case-by-case basis, approvals performed in accordance with IACS Unified Requirement Z17 and IMO Assembly Resolution A.761(18), as amended.
- 5.6 The Administrator does not require that service providers comply with IACS Unified Requirement Z17, except as provided in §5.3, above. It is recognized that this standard is often employed for specialized functions, such as the servicing and testing of radio equipment. The Administrator has no objection to its application when deemed appropriate by the attending surveyor.
- 5.7 Service providers must have a documented and certified quality management system (QMS) which incorporates the items listed in §7.1.5 of IMO Resolution MSC. 402(96). A QMS certified in accordance with the most current version of the ISO 9000 series is an acceptable means of fulfilling this requirement but is not mandatory. Where a QMS complies with other standards, certification must be obtained by the service provider through approval by an Administrator RO.

6.0 Recognized Independent Testing Laboratories

- 6.1 International instruments to which the RMI is signatory may require that certain materials, equipment, or devices are manufactured, tested, marked, and installed according to particular international standards and certified by an independent testing laboratory recognized by the Administrator.
- 6.2 The Administrator does not maintain a specific list of acceptable independent testing laboratories. However, to be recognized by the Administrator an independent laboratory must:
- 6.2.1 be engaged, as a regular part of its business, in performing inspections and tests that are the same as, or largely similar to, the inspections and tests required in the applicable standard;

⁴ This has become necessary because certain suppliers have not developed networks of service stations to support their products, something that owners should be taking into consideration in the selection of closely regulated items such as these.

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- 6.2.2 possess, or have access to, the apparatus, facilities, personnel, and calibrated instruments that are necessary to inspect and test the equipment or material under the applicable standard;
- 6.2.3 not be owned or controlled by:
 - .1 the manufacturer of the equipment or material to be inspected or tested under the applicable standard or any manufacturer of similar equipment or material;
 - .2 a vendor of the equipment or material to be inspected or tested under the applicable standard or a vendor of similar equipment or material; or
 - .3 a supplier of materials to the manufacturer;
- 6.2.4 not advertise or promote the manufacturer's equipment or material that the laboratory inspects and tests under the applicable standard; and
- 6.2.5 possess International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 certification from an accreditation body which is a full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) or an accreditation body recognized by the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA).
