

MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICES No.14 of 2001

Subject : Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Surveying Authorities and Surveyors on inspection of the outside of the passenger ships' bottom and validity of passenger ships' certificate

1. Regulation 7, Chapter 1, Part B of SOLAS 1974 as modified by 1988 Protocol to SOLAS 1974 requires inspection of the outside of the ships' bottom besides other surveys at the time of initial and renewal (periodical) surveys of a passenger ship.

2. As per the existing provisions of rule 170 of Merchant Shipping (Construction and Survey of Passenger Ships) Rules, 1981, a passenger ship has to be examined in dry-dock at the time of each renewal (periodical) survey as against the requirement of inspection of the outside of the ships bottom under SOLAS provisions.

3. Taking into consideration, the practice being followed by other maritime administrations, and the provisions of sub-section 2 of Section 284 of Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the Chief Surveyor with the Government of India, has decided to accept the following alternative arrangements in respect of the dry-docking surveys of the passenger ships:

(a) For passenger ships of less than 15 years in age, only two renewal surveys over any period of five years, will be required to be carried out with the ship inspected in dry-dock provided that the maximum interval between any two dry-docking surveys shall not exceed 36 months. At the time of other intermediate renewal surveys, the ships bottom and other under-water part of the hull can be inspected in water through CCTV under supervision of MMD Surveyors in reasonably clear waters where such inspection can be carried out satisfactorily.

(b) The passenger ships of over 15 years in age shall be required to be put up for dry-docking survey at every alternate renewal surveys i.e. for the other renewal surveys the ships' bottom can be seen in water through CCTV under MMD Surveyor's supervision.

(c) In-water survey shall only be permitted when no hull repairs requiring ship's dry-docking are due or the ship's structure has not suffered deterioration to such an extent that in the opinion of the surveyor dry-dock inspection is necessary.

(d) All those cases where any extension of surveys including inspection of the outside of the ships bottom or dry-dock etc. are granted due to some unavoidable circumstances, shall be governed by the principles of harmonized system of survey and certification under the provisions of 1988 Protocol to SOLAS 1974 i.e. the dates of validity of certificates and dates of renewal and other surveys shall not change even if extensions have been granted for the same while considering the subsequent dates of said surveys and validity of the certificates etc. except as permitted under the provisions of the 1988 Protocol to SOLAS, 1974.