



**Marine Notice Nr. 03/2023,**

**26/09/2023**

**Subject:** “ Equivalent arrangement accepted under Regulations I/5 and III/4 of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea 1974 and MSC.1/Circ.1328 – Extended service interval for inflatable liferafts – Submission of Statement to the IMO”

**Ref. :** (a) IMO MSC.1/Circ.1328, 11 June 2009.  
(b) IMO, 1974 SOLAS Convention (as amended), Ch.III/20.8.3.

**To:** Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies & ROs, Port State Control Surveyors, and Deputy Registrars of the G-B I.S.R.

**Summary:** This Marine Notice outlines the G-B I.S.R. policy and informs all interested parties that the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau notified the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of an equivalent arrangement accepted following the provisions of Regulations I/5, III/4, and III/20.8.3 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention (as amended) concerning service interval of inflatable liferafts, notably: VIKING S30 series of liferafts.

### **Background**

1. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009), approved the Guidelines for the approval of inflatable liferafts subject to extended service intervals not exceeding 30 months, as set out in the Annex, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment.
2. According to SOLAS III/20.8.1, every inflatable liferaft, inflatable lifejacket, and marine evacuation system shall be serviced at intervals not exceeding 12 months, provided where in any case this is impracticable, the Administration may extend this period to 17 months; and SOLAS III/20.8.3, provides for an Administration which approves new and novel inflatable liferaft arrangements pursuant to regulation 4 to allow for extended service intervals on certain conditions.

### **Statement to the IMO**

3. As per IMO GISIS, under some regulations of relevant IMO conventions or other instruments, it explicitly requires that particulars on exemptions or equivalents should be communicated to the Organization by the Administration concerned.
4. The International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau notified the competent services of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of an equivalent arrangement accepted following the provisions of Regulations I/5, III/4, and III/20.8.3 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention (as amended) concerning service interval of inflatable liferafts, notably: VIKING S30. Details of the equivalent arrangements are attached.

### **Equivalent Provisions**

5. The equivalent provision relates to:

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- SOLAS III/20.8.1, which requires every inflatable liferaft, inflatable lifejacket, and marine evacuation system shall be serviced at intervals not exceeding 12 months, provided where in any case this is impracticable, the Administration may extend this period to 17 months; and
- SOLAS III.20.8.3, wherein an Administration that approved new and novel inflatable liferaft arrangements according to regulation 4 may allow for extended service intervals on certain conditions.

### Conditions under which extended service intervals have been accepted

6. The conditions under which extended service intervals have been accepted are listed in detail within the annexed “Statement by the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau: Equivalent arrangement accepted under Regulations I/5 and III/4, of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and MSC.1/ Circ. 1328, Extended Service Intervals for inflatable liferafts”.

### Queries

7. Any queries on this Marine Circular may be submitted to G-B I.S.R. / Technical Department (E-mail: [tech@gbi-lb.org](mailto:tech@gbi-lb.org), Tel. : +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537194).

### For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

### Office of the General Ships Registrar



### Attached (in electronic format)

“Equivalent arrangement accepted under Regulations I/5 and III/4, of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and MSC.1/ Circ. 1328 Extended Service Intervals for inflatable liferafts, Statement by the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau”, (p. 2).