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MSC.8/Circ.1
10 December 2020

**VOLUNTARY EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO
SOLAS REGULATION II-1/12 ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION MSC.474(102)**

- 1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 102nd session (4 to 11 November 2020), adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation II-1/12 by resolution MSC.474(102).
- 2 The entry-into-force date of the aforementioned amendments is 1 January 2024.
- 3 In adopting the above-mentioned amendments to SOLAS regulation II-1/12, the Committee, having considered the need for their voluntary early implementation, in accordance with the *Guidelines on the voluntary early implementation of amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and related mandatory instruments* (MSC.1/Circ.1565), agreed to invite the Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, to implement them prior to the entry-into-force date.
- 4 Voluntary early implementation should be communicated by a Contracting Government to the Organization for dissemination through GISIS.
- 5 In addition to the aforementioned communication, a Contracting Government may also consider the use of the existing provisions for equivalent arrangements under SOLAS regulation I/5 to cover the interim period between the date of the voluntary early implementation and the entry-into-force date of the amendments.
- 6 A Contracting Government, in line with paragraph 1.2.3 of the *Procedures for port State control, 2019* (resolution A.1138(31)), as may be amended, when acting as a port State, should refrain from enforcing its decision to voluntarily early implement the amendments to SOLAS regulation II-1/12 to ships entitled to fly the flag of other Contracting Governments, calling at its ports.
- 7 The Contracting Governments, when undertaking port State control activities, should take into account the present invitation and any subsequent notifications communicated by other Contracting Governments through GISIS.
- 8 Contracting Governments are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control authorities and recognized organizations.