

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

MSC.8/Circ.2
1 June 2021

**VOLUNTARY EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO
THE SOLAS CONVENTION AND THE LSA CODE
ADOPTED BY RESOLUTIONS MSC.482(103) AND MSC.485(103), RESPECTIVELY**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 103rd session (5 to 14 May 2021), adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation III/33.2 and paragraph 4.4.1.3.2 of the LSA Code by resolutions MSC.482(103) and MSC.485(103), respectively. The expected entry-into-force date of the aforementioned amendments is 1 January 2024.

2 In adopting the amendments to the SOLAS Convention and the LSA Code, 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 SOLAS Contracting Governments to implement them prior to the entry-into-force date.

3 Voluntary early implementation of the amendments by a Contracting Government should be communicated to the Organization, for dissemination through GISIS. In addition, 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.

4 A Contracting Government, in line with paragraph 1.2.4 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 implement the amendments early on ships flying the flag of other Contracting Governments, calling at its ports.

5 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.

6 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.