



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

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SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6, Access To and Within Spaces In and Forward of the Cargo Area of Tankers and Bulk Carriers and Application of the Technical Provisions for Means of Access for Inspections

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6 on access to and within spaces in the cargo area of oil tankers and bulk carriers, adopted by Resolution MSC.134(76), have entered into force on 1 July 2004, and the associated technical provisions for means of access for inspections, adopted by Resolution MSC.133(76), will become effective from 1 January 2005.
- 1.2 Meanwhile, amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6 and the technical provisions for means of access for inspections were adopted by Resolutions MSC.151(78) and MSC.158(78) respectively. These amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2006.
- 1.3 Oil tankers of 500 gross tonnage and over and bulk carriers of 20,000 gross tonnage and over, constructed on or after 1 January 2005, will still be required to be fitted with permanent means of access complying with SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6 and the technical provisions for means of access for inspections, as adopted by Resolutions MSC.134(76) and MSC.133(76), until 1 January 2006. However, Contracting Governments may apply in advance the amended Regulation II-1/3-6 of the Convention and the technical provisions for means of access for inspections, as adopted by Resolutions MSC.151(78) and MSC.158(78), to ships flying their flag constructed on or after 1 January 2005 in lieu of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6 and the technical provisions for means of access for inspections, as adopted by Resolutions MSC.134(76) and MSC.133(76) respectively.

2.0 Instruction

- 2.1 The Administration has given consideration to this option, and is authorizing its Recognized Organizations (ROs) involved in the survey and issuance of Safety Construction Certificates to Marshall Islands registered ships, to apply in advance the amended Regulation II-1/3-6 of the Convention and the technical provisions for means of access for inspections, as adopted by Resolutions MSC.151(78) and MSC.158(78), to ships constructed on or after 1 January 2005 in lieu of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6 and the technical provisions for means of access for inspections, as adopted by Resolutions MSC.134(76) and MSC.133(76) respectively.
