



# The Bahamas Maritime Authority

## BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 98

### **SERVICING OF MARINE EVACUATION SYSTEMS, INFLATABLE LIFERAFTS, INFLATED RESCUE BOATS, INFLATABLE LIFEJACKETS AND HYDROSTATIC RELEASE UNITS**

**Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters, Bahamas  
Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors**

*Note: This Bulletin replaces Instructions to Classification Societies No. 2 and is  
to be read in conjunction with IMO Circular MSC/Circ 955.*

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#### **1. Introduction**

This Bulletin gives guidance relating to the servicing of marine evacuation systems, inflatable liferafts, inflated rescue boats, inflatable lifejackets and hydrostatic release units

#### **2. Harmonised System**

The servicing intervals of life saving appliances for ships may be carried out in line with the terms of the Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) annual, periodical and renewal survey, in accordance with the allowance described in IMO *Circular MSC/Circ 955*.

#### **3. Service Intervals**

- 3.1. SOLAS Chapter III requires that inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, marine evacuation systems, inflated rescue boats and hydrostatic release units (other than disposable hydrostatic release units) be serviced at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

- 3.2. The above service interval may be increased by up to 5 months if the vessel trades to ports where there are no approved service stations.
- 3.3. If a vessel is operating under the HSSC, Recognised Organisations are permitted to extend the servicing interval in line with the relevant annual or periodical survey window i.e. 12 months +/- 3 months, up to a maximum of 18 months from the last date of servicing without reference to the BMA.
- 3.4. In considering any extension due regard shall be given to dated components which may expire during this extension period. Otherwise, extensions shall be in line with the specified SOLAS allowances.

#### **4. Marine Evacuation Systems deployment**

High Speed Craft Code Section 8 requires in addition to the above, that each Marine Evacuation Systems shall be deployed on a rotational basis at least once every six years.

#### **5. Extensions to Servicing Intervals**

- 5.1. Recognised Organisations are authorized to consider applications for extension of servicing of inflatable life saving equipment without reference to the BMA.
- 5.2. When considering applications for extension in service intervals Recognised Organisations must verify that the justification for the extension is reasonable. The period of the extension shall be limited to that considered reasonable to carry out the required servicing and / or survey completion.