



Office of  
Deputy Commissioner  
of Maritime Affairs

**THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

**Marine Notice**

**TEC-008**  
**Rev. 06/12**

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**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND AUTHORIZED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

**SUBJECT: Passenger Vessels - Underwater Examination of Hull in Lieu of Drydocking**

**Reference:** (a) **Maritime Regulation 2.35**  
(b) **International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended.**  
(c) **MSC.1/Circ.1348**

**Supersedes: Marine Notice TEC-008, dated 1/00**

**PURPOSE:**

Regulation 7 in Chapter I of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974) requires annual inspection of passenger vessel structures, including the outside of the ship's bottom. The external hull examination is normally performed with the vessel in drydock. However, under certain conditions and for specific surveys, the external examination of the ship's hull may be carried out with the ship afloat. This notice outlines the procedures by which, under certain conditions, an underwater examination of a ship's bottom by divers in lieu of drydocking may be permitted.

**APPLICABILITY:**

This Notice applies to all passenger vessels. SOLAS defines passenger ships as all vessels carrying more than twelve (12) persons who are not members of the crew or are not engaged in any capacity on the business of the vessel.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

**1.0 Procedures**

Operators of Liberian passenger vessels should make the request to perform an underwater examination in lieu of drydocking directly to the Recognized Organization (RO), that is the vessel's Classification Society recognized and authorized to act on behalf of the Liberian Administration and that issued the vessel's Passenger Ship Safety Certificate. The RO will evaluate the request and, after considering all relevant information, make a recommendation to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner. If the request is approved, the underwater examination will be performed according to the RO's procedures, taking into account reference (c), to the satisfaction of the attending surveyor.

## **2.0 Limitations**

- 2.1 Passenger vessels of 15 years of age or less are to be examined in drydock at least twice during any five year period and the span between these drydock examinations shall not exceed three years. Underwater examinations may be requested for the three remaining annual inspections in accordance with the procedures outlined above. Due to the limit of three years between drydockings, requests for more than two consecutive underwater examinations in lieu of drydocking will not be considered.
- 2.2.1 Passenger vessels of more than 15 years of age must have the outer bottom of the hull examined in drydock at least every other year. Underwater examinations in lieu of drydockings for the alternate years may be requested in accordance with the procedures described above.

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