**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT**

**EXECUTIVE AGENCY “MARITIME ADMINISTRATION”**

**ORDER № 94**

Sofia, 6 December 2005

on the requirements for supplying Bulgarian ships with immersion suits, their
location and related requirements

In order to implement the provisions of Resolution MSC. 152(78) of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organisation, adopted on 20 May 2004, amending Chapters III and IV of the International Convention for the Protection of Life at Sea and preventing the detention of Bulgarian ships in accordance with Port State control, on the basis of Article 362(1) of the Merchant Shipping Code,

ORDER:

1. **Area of application.**
2. This order applies to all cargo ships over 500 gross tonnage engaged in international voyages flying the Bulgarian flag.
3. For ships constructed before 1 July 2006, the requirements of this order must be met no later than the date of the first inspection of safety equipment on or after 1 July 2006.
4. Ships constructed after 1 July 2006 must comply with the requirements at the time of entry into service.
5. **Obligations of shipowners.**
6. All shipowners operating ships flying the Bulgarian flag shall supply their ships with immersion suits equal to the number of persons on board. The immersion suits shall be positioned in crew accommodation spaces in an easily accessible location, marked by the appropriate symbol approved by the International Maritime Organization. In the event of an increase in the number of persons on board, the shipowner is obliged to provide immersion suits for new persons, as well as changing form E of the “Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate”.
7. In addition to the number of immersion suits required in point I, each Bulgarian vessel shall additionally be provided with immersion suits of not less than the following number:
* on the bridge — 2 pieces,
* in engine room — 2 pieces, ships with watchkeeping service, and in case of unguarded service — 1 number,
* when working in a pumping compartment, the persons wear their personal immersion suits.
1. When more persons than the provided number of immersion suits work in the engine room and on the bridge at certain times, while the ship is underway or at anchor, the additional persons shall wear their personal immersion suits.
2. The immersion suits referred to in paragraph 2 shall be located in easily accessible places, if possible close to the assembly station, to life-saving appliances and a source for emergency lighting and shall be placed in a locker or suitable space to protect them from damage. The storage site must bear the appropriate symbol approved by the International Maritime Organization.
3. Where a shipowner doubts whether the locations of the immersion suits have been properly identified, he shall seek the opinion of the relevant Directorate Maritime Administration where the vessel is registered.
4. In case of supply to ships with immersion suits before the deadline specified in point.1.2, the shipowners shall be obliged to inform the relevant Directorate Maritime Administration, where the ship is registered, in order to issue a new form “E” to the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate.
5. Shipowners are obliged to order the crews of their ships to arrange the position and number of immersion suits of all ship’s plans for the deployment of the emergency and rescue property.
6. The immersion suits with which ships are fitted must comply with the requirements of the LSA Code and Ordinance No 54 of 12 July 2004 of the Minister for Transport and Communications on the technical requirements and conformity assessment of the equipment of seagoing ships, shall have a document of conformity and the necessary marking.
7. **Enforcement**
8. All Bulgarian shipowners of seagoing vessels and the classification societies recognized by the Executive Agency Maritime Administration shall be notified of the issuance of this enforcement order.
9. Shipowners shall send a copy of their ship’s instructions for information and application by the masters.
10. The Directors of the Maritime Administration Directorates in Varna and Burgas to organize the implementation of the order by the employees of the Department of Survey, Certification and Registration of Large and Small Ships and the Department of Ship Control in Ports.
11. The order to be published on the website of the Executive Agency Maritime Administration.
12. **Sanctions and order of enforcement**
13. In case of non-compliance with the requirements of this order, inspectors carrying out inspection and certification on and after the date referred to in point 1.2 or 1.3 shall not certify the Security Certificate of the equipment of a cargo ship.
14. For failure to comply with the order of shipowners and crews of ships flying the Bulgarian flag, administrative penalties shall be imposed in accordance with Chapter 18 of the Merchant Shipping Code.
15. **Entry into force**

That order entered into force on 1 July 2006.

1. **Control**

I entrust the enforcement of the order to the Secretary General of the Executive Agency Maritime Administration or any other authorized person.

**KDP. VENTSISLAV IVANOV,**

*Executive Director*

*Executive Agency “Maritime Administration”*