
Instructions for Action in Survival Craft

Guidance to Shipowners, Masters, Officers, Ratings, Manufacturers of Liferrafts and Lifeboat Builders.

This Note supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1419

Summary

This Note advises all Shipowners, Masters, Officers, Ratings, Manufacturers of Liferrafts and Lifeboat Builders of the IMO resolution on instructions for action in survival craft. Its provisions are contained in the Annexes, and include:

- instructions for immediate action in a liferaft
- instructions on how to survive in a liferaft
- an outline for lifeboat survival manual

1. The International Maritime Organisation has issued guidance on survival instructions that should be provided in survival craft, in Resolution A.657(16).

2. Resolution A.657(16), which is reproduced in Annexes 1 and 2, contains -

.1 instructions for immediate action in a liferaft;

.2 instructions on how to survive in a liferaft; and

.3 an outline for lifeboat survival instructions or manual.

3. The instructions for immediate action in a liferaft should be immediately available to the person in charge of a liferaft. The instructions on how to survive in a liferaft will normally be stowed in the equipment pack. These two sets of instructions should be provided in liferafts which comply with the requirements of the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances for Ships Other than Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations

1998. A copy of both sets of instructions should also be provided in the ship's Training Manuals.

4. The instructions for immediate action should be in accordance with Annex 1, Part A. The instructions on how to survive in a liferaft may be provided in accordance with Annex 1, Part B, or in an amplified form.

5. The outline for lifeboat survival instructions or manual as described in Annex 2 is a list of contents for the survival manual required to be provided in lifeboats complying with the regulations referred to in paragraph 3. A copy of this survival manual should also be provided in the ship's Training Manuals.

6. It is recommended that when liferafts are serviced the existing instructions be replaced with the instructions in resolution A.657(16) and a copy placed in the Training Manuals. It is also recommended that a copy of the survival manual be provided in lifeboats which do not need to comply with the requirements of the Regulations referred to in paragraph 3, with further copies being provided in the ship's Training Manuals.

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LIFERAFT SURVIVAL INSTRUCTIONS**Part A****Instructions for immediate action in a liferaft**

The instructions concerning immediate action upon entering the liferaft should be written in easily legible type on waterproof material, and displayed so as to be easily seen by a person entering the liferaft: The instructions should be written in one of the official languages of the Organisation in addition to the official language of the country.

1. Cut painter and get clear of ship.
2. Look for and pick up other survivors.
3. Ensure sea anchor streamed when clear of ship.
4. Close up entrances.
5. Read survival instructions.

Part B**Instructions on how to survive in a liferaft**

1. Identify person in charge of liferaft.
2. Post a lookout.
3. Open equipment pack.
4. Issue anti-seasickness medicine and seasickness bags.
5. Dry liferaft floor and inflate, if appropriate.
6. Administer first aid, if appropriate.
7. Manoeuvre towards other liferafts, secure liferafts together and distribute survivors and equipment between survival craft.
8. Arrange watches and duties.
9. Check liferaft for correct operation and any damage and repair as appropriate (ventilate if CO₂ leaking into liferaft).

10. Check functioning of canopy light and if possible conserve power during daylight.

11. Adjust canopy openings to give protection from weather or to ventilate the liferaft as appropriate.

12. Prepare and use detection equipment including radio equipment.

13. Gather up any useful floating objects.

14. Protect against heat, cold and wet conditions.

15. Decide on food and water rations.

16. Take measures to maintain morale.

17. Make sanitary arrangements to keep liferaft habitable.

18. Maintain liferaft including topping up of buoyancy tubes and canopy supports.

19. Make proper use of available survival equipment.

20. Prepare action for -

- .1 arrival of rescue units;
- .2 being taken in tow;
- .3 rescue by helicopter; and
- .4 landing and beaching.

Notes:

1. The order in which the above instructions are followed will depend on the particular circumstances of the situation at the time.

2. The above instructions can stand alone or can be amplified as appropriate to the satisfaction of the Administration.

OUTLINE FOR LIFEBOAT SURVIVAL INSTRUCTIONS OR MANUAL

Contents

1. The person in charge of the lifeboat shall immediately, after clearing the ship, organise the following -

.1 look for and pick up other survivors from the water;

.2 marshal liferafts;

.3 secure survival craft together, distribute survivors and equipment between survival craft;

.4 stream sea anchor; and

.5 (if appropriate) rig exposure cover or foldable canopy.

2. Post a lookout.

3. Issue anti-seasickness medicine and seasickness bags.

4. Administer first aid, if appropriate.

5. Arrange watches and duties.

6. Prepare and use detection equipment including radio equipment.

7. Gather up any useful floating objects.

8. Protect against heat, cold and wet conditions.

9. Decide on food and water rations.

10. Take measures to maintain morale.

11. Make sanitary arrangements to keep lifeboat habitable.

12. Prepare for onset of adverse weather.

13. Make proper use of survival equipment

14. Prepare action for -

.1 arrival of rescue units;

.2 being taken in tow;

.3 rescue by helicopter; and

.4 landing and beaching.

Note: The above list of contents should be used to compile a lifeboat survival manual to the satisfaction of the Administration.