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30 November 2015

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION FOR MEANS OF RECOVERY M-NOTICE

This consultation is for a new Marine Guidance Note (MGN) informing industry of a new SOLAS Regulation requiring all SOLAS ships to have arrangements for the recovery of persons from the water. The Note follows IMO guidelines and establish the need for Non-SOLAS UK ships and boats (e.g. fishing vessels and small craft) to equally observe these international provisions as industry guidance. The new notice also establishes the process through which novel equipment intended for the recovery of persons from the water may be accepted for use on UK ships. Nothing in the SOLAS amendment or UK policy requires that additional equipment is to be carried on ships; the requirement is only about having a plan and procedure to use equipment. Feedback is specifically sought in response to the questions outlined in the associated Business Impact Target questionnaire.

The closing date for this consultation is Friday 18th December 2015. Responses to consultations should be sent to consultationsdmss@mcga.gov.uk and clearly labelled as Consultation on Means of Recovery.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you would like the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

This consultation has been conducted in accordance with the [Cabinet Office - Consultation principles: guidance](#).

If you have any comments regarding the conduct of this consultation please contact the Consultation Co-ordinator at consultation.coordinator@mcga.gov.uk. We are continually trying to improve the way in which we conduct consultations and appreciate your views, so we would also be grateful if you could complete and return the attached feedback form. These should be submitted to the Consultation Co-ordinator and are not affected by the deadline for this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Lardner

Head of Marine Technology Branch