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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 090315.GEN
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Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

Re: ALTERNATE LIFE BOAT DRILL METHODS FOR MODUs

On 12 January 2015 the International Maritime Organization published circular MSC.1/Circ.1486 outlining the acceptance of alternate life boat drilling methods for MODUs. Vanuatu recognizes this circular and the alternate methods outlined within.

Paragraph 3.3.6 of SOLAS chapter III, regulation 19, requires the "launching of lifeboats with their assigned crew on board and maneuvering in the water" at least once every three months, as far as reasonable and practicable. and Paragraph 14.12.4.3 of the 2009 MODU Code specifies: "alternatively, the provisions regarding launching and maneuvering may be considered as having been met for those units that have, (a) implemented the Guidelines developed by the Organization and they are included in the unit's operating procedures or, (b) by other equivalent means acceptable to the Administration."

In so far that the alternate life boat drilling methods comply as closely as practicable to the SOLAS requirement, this Administration will accept such alternate methods.


Patrick Michael DeCharles II
by the direction of the
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu

