



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 918 of 6th April 2026

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Life-saving appliances and arrangements
Reference	SOLAS chapter III and IV

The carriage of self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts for new ships

SSE continued development of amendments to SOLAS chapter III and chapter IV of the LSA Code with the intent to equip all new passenger and cargo ships constructed from 1 January 2032 with automatically self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts (except for liferafts with a capacity of no more than 12 persons, whether they are davit-launched or not).

There is a general agreement for transitional arrangements of 3 and 5 years, after the expected entry into force of the new requirements, for passenger ships and cargo ships respectively to allow for a sufficient supply of liferafts after the adoption of the requirements, and sufficient time for ships to install them. The draft amendments are expected to enter into force no earlier than 1 January 2032.

Draft amendments to SOLAS III – Life-saving appliances and arrangements

New application provisions were included taking into consideration that "ships constructed on or after" should be used for application dates since the new requirements would be applicable to only new ships, and the need to retain "replaced on or after" concepts to ensure that when liferafts installed on existing ships are replaced, they do not need to comply with the new requirements.

Draft amendments to the LSA Code, chapter IV – Survival Craft

Draft amendments have been made to regulation 4.2.5 – *Stability of inflatable liferafts*, to exclude automatically self-righting or canopied reversible liferafts from the requirements of paragraph 4.2.5.2 and 4.2.6.2.

A new section 4.2-1 "Additional requirements for automatically self-righting liferaft and canopied reversible liferaft" has been added which includes requirements for stable and safe operation, self-draining arrangements, self-righting, the need for a canopy on both sides of the main body and easy access to the liferaft's equipment.

2000 HSC Code

It was agreed that the new requirements for canopied and reversible liferafts are applicable to the 2000 HSC Code, however, further work is required to draft the relevant requirement, including application provisions. This work will be carried out by correspondence.

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Requirements for rigid automatically self-righting and canopied reversible liferafts in section 4.3 of the LSA Code

It was agreed that the requirements should also be developed for rigid automatically self-righting and canopied reversible liferafts. However, due to time constraints and the lack of draft text, the sub-committee was not able to progress this matter further, instead referring it to a correspondence group.

REFERENCE:

- Draft amendments to SOLAS III – Life-saving appliances and arrangements

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
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