Offshore Special Regulation 4.20

Integrity of Liferafts

A submission from the Chairman of Special Regulations Sub-committee on behalf of the Chairman of the International Regulations Commission

Proposals

1. To insert the following text at the head of ISAF Offshore Special Regulation 4.20.

**Integrity of liferaft standards**

Whilst SOLAS liferaft production is subject to mandatory third-party testing, leisure liferaft production is not. Therefore ISAF strongly recommends that owners or persons-in-charge intending to purchase or hire a liferaft other than SOLAS should ensure that a recognised and qualified third party has independently vetted the manufacturer regarding the production of the liferaft type in question.

2. To encourage ISAF to seek by appropriate means the inclusion of non-SOLAS liferafts within the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Directive.

The manufacture of equipment within the scope of the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Directive must, under the terms of the Directive be independently vetted by a qualified third party. ISAF should therefore seek by appropriate means to secure the inclusion of leisure liferafts within this Directive. Because the Directive is part of EU legislation it will still be possible for non-compliant equipment to be placed on the market outside the EU in which case the text proposed in (1) above is valid.

Current Position

none

Reason

Safety