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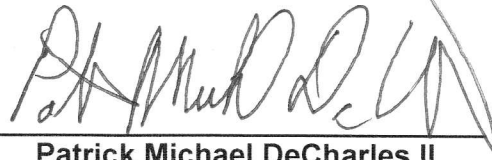
Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAS REGULATION XI-1/7 ON ATMOSPHERE TESTING INSTRUMENT FOR ENCLOSED SPACES

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted SOLAS regulation III/19.3.6.2.3 relating to enclosed space entry and rescue drills, by Resolution MSC.350(92).
2. The MSC at its ninety-third session confirmed that regulation III/19.3.6.2.3 does not introduce carriage requirements for atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces.
3. The MSC at its ninety-fourth session, in adopting Resolution MSC.380(94) recognized the need to implement the new SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 early in order to expedite the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instruments. MSC/Circ.1485 invited SOLAS Contracting Governments to voluntarily implement SOLAS regulation XI-1/7 to ships under their flags, as soon as practicable, taking into account that the entry-into-force date of the corresponding amendment to SOLAS is 1 July 2016.
4. In view of the testing of atmosphere of enclosed spaces is critical for the safe entry by ship crew and the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instrument introduced by regulation XI-1/7 is essential to satisfying the requirement of regulation III/19.3.6.2.3, Vanuatu Maritime Services has decided to implement regulation XI-1/7 early. Vanuatu registered vessels to which SOLAS Regulations apply, shall implement regulation XI-1/7 as soon as possible but later than 1 July 2015.
5. Shipowners should take into consideration MSC.1/Circ.1477 *“Guidelines to facilitate the selection of portable atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed*

spaces as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7", when selecting portable atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces as required by regulation XI-1/7.

6. Recognized Organizations have been separately instructed to verify compliance onboard Singapore registered ships when carrying out the first survey relating to the Safety Equipment Certificate after 1 July 2015.



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

