



Ref. T4/3.01

MSC.1/Circ.1326
11 June 2009

CLARIFICATION OF SOLAS REGULATION III/19

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009), having considered a recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-second session, agreed that there was a need to clarify the application of SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3.

2 SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.3 requires each lifeboat to be launched, and manoeuvred in the water by its assigned operating crew, at least once every three months during an abandon ship drill. However, the regulation, whilst requiring each lifeboat to be manoeuvred in the water by its assigned operating crew, does not require the assigned operating crew to be on board when the lifeboat is launched.

3 The Committee, therefore, agreed that the assigned operating crew should not be required to be on board lifeboats during launching, unless the master, within the authority conferred to him by paragraph 5.5 of the ISM Code, considered, taking into account all safety aspects, that the lifeboat should be launched with the assigned operating crew on board.

4 Member Governments are invited to use the above clarification when applying the requirements of SOLAS regulation III/19, and bring it to the attention of all parties concerned and, in particular, port State control officers.
