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**Ships and marine technology —  
Servicing of inflatable life-saving  
appliances —**

**Part 1:  
General**

*Navires et technologie maritime — Entretien des dispositifs  
de sauvetage gonflables —*

*Partie 1: Généralités*

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# Contents

	Page
Foreword.....	iv
Introduction.....	v
<b>1 Scope.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Responsibilities of servicing stations.....</b>	<b>2</b>
4.1 General.....	2
4.2 Responsibilities of Administrations.....	2
4.3 Responsibilities of manufacturers.....	3
<b>5 Servicing manual.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6 Servicing station — Quality assurance.....</b>	<b>4</b>
6.1 General.....	4
6.2 Quality management system.....	4
<b>7 Servicing facilities and provisions.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 Training and certification of servicing personnel.....</b>	<b>5</b>
8.1 General.....	5
8.2 Training programme.....	6
8.2.1 General.....	6
8.2.2 Initial certification of new technicians.....	6
8.2.3 Recertification training.....	6
8.2.4 General procedure for training courses.....	7
<b>9 Documentation.....</b>	<b>7</b>
9.1 Servicing records.....	7
9.2 Re-inspection certificate.....	7
9.3 Log card information.....	7
9.4 Deficiency records.....	8
<b>Bibliography.....</b>	<b>9</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Maritime safety*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18079 series can be found on the ISO website.

## Introduction

The IMO International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea of 1974 (SOLAS 74) Chapter III Regulation 20.8 sets requirements for the annual servicing and inspection of inflatable life rafts, inflatable lifejackets, marine evacuation systems, and maintenance and repair of inflated rescue boats on ships. This regulation refers to the IMO Recommendation on the conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable life rafts Assembly resolution A.761(18).

However, this resolution only provides specific standards for the servicing, maintenance and repair of inflatable life rafts and remains silent for other types of inflatable or inflated life-saving appliances mentioned by SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20.8 and consequently, the application of this statutory requirement could vary widely in practice.

The ISO 18079 series addresses those areas in which the IMO recommendation is silent, in order to facilitate consistent implementation by maritime Administrations. It is intended for use as a companion to the IMO recommendation and also to encompass all other relevant life-saving appliances covered by the ISO 18079 series and not necessarily regulated by IMO instruments.

The IMO Recommendation, on the conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable life rafts Assembly resolution A.761(18), specifies obligations and responsibilities for Administrations, manufacturers and ship owners. While the ISO 18079 series covers the requirements of this resolution, it has been rearranged and reformulated in order to enable a single entity, i.e. a servicing station, to attain certification in accordance with the ISO 18079 series. This does not mean that the specified obligations and responsibilities are lifted, delegated or otherwise transferred by authority from those parties to the single entity being certified.

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# Ships and marine technology — Servicing of inflatable life-saving appliances —

## Part 1: General

### 1 Scope

This document, in conjunction with ISO 18079-2, ISO 18079-3, ISO 18079-4 and ISO 18079-5, states general provisions for servicing stations for inflatable life-saving appliances including, but not limited to, those subject to SOLAS III/20.8.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Recommendation on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable liferafts, as adopted by IMO assembly resolution A.761(18), and amended by resolutions MSC.55(66) and MSC.388(94)

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

NOTE Conformity assessment related terms used, e.g. “accreditation” and “certification”, have a different meaning than their usual use in ISO standards because this document uses the same definitions as specified in the IMO resolution.

#### 3.1

##### **accredit** (verb)

give authority or sanction to someone, i.e. a servicing station, when recognized standards have been met

#### 3.2

##### **accreditation**

process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented to the servicing station by the manufacturer

#### 3.3

##### **Administration**

authority that undertake(s) the approval, periodic inspection and checks of servicing stations for the service of equipment covered by the ISO 18079 series and the tasks set out in [4.2](#)

#### 3.4

##### **appliances**

inflatable life-saving appliances and arrangements covered by the scope of the ISO 18079 series

**3.5**

**approval**

process in which the Administration authorizes an accredited servicing station to service equipment covered by this document

**3.6**

**certified technician**

qualified person employed by an accredited servicing station and adequately trained and certificated by the manufacturer on specific types of appliances in accordance with [Clause 8](#)

**3.7**

**log card**

document containing logged information relating to the servicing history of a product

**3.8**

**manufacturer**

party that originally places appliances covered by the ISO 18079 series on the market and/or that exerts design authority over the appliances and also any duly appointed agent

**3.9**

**re-inspection certificate**

document issued by an accredited and approved servicing station verifying that the appliance has been serviced in accordance with the required specifications

**3.10**

**servicing station**

company that provides servicing of appliances covered by the ISO 18079 series and maintains approval by the Administration and accreditation by the manufacturer of the appliances for which they provide servicing

## **4 Responsibilities of servicing stations**

### **4.1 General**

Servicing stations are responsible, upon request, to provide evidence of their approval and accreditation by the Administration and the manufacturers of the appliances for which they provide services.

Servicing stations shall allow a representative of the ship owner or end user to be in attendance during service, if so desired.

In order to ensure that the servicing of appliances is effectively conducted, the servicing station shall meet the requirements of manufacturers and Administrations as set out in the following subclauses.

### **4.2 Responsibilities of Administrations**

**4.2.1** In order to ensure that the periodic servicing of appliances covered by this document is performed at servicing stations that have demonstrated competence to service and repack the appliances, maintain adequate facilities and use only properly trained personnel, the servicing station shall allow for the necessary inspections by the Administration.

**4.2.2** In order to be approved, servicing stations shall have demonstrated the above mentioned capability for appliances of each manufacturer whose appliances they are approved to service.

**4.2.3** After initial approval, the servicing station shall allow for inspections by the manufacturer, as well as for inspections by the Administration, to ensure that manufacturer support is up to date and effective and that the requirements of this document are complied with.

NOTE The manufacturers are responsible for keeping Administrations informed as to the list of servicing stations accredited by them and any changes thereto. The information can be published on a public available web page.

### 4.3 Responsibilities of manufacturers

**4.3.1** Servicing stations shall ensure that the appliances for which they are accredited to service by the manufacturer are serviced in accordance with the ISO 18079 series and with the instructions provided by the manufacturer.

**4.3.2** Servicing stations shall ensure that a qualified person is present and responsible whenever servicing is being performed on appliances covered by this document.

**4.3.3** Servicing stations shall ensure that accreditation by the manufacturer ensures the provision of the following:

- a) appropriate training and technical support;
- b) servicing manuals covering the products the servicing stations are certified to handle;
- c) changes to servicing manuals, servicing bulletins and instructions;
- d) proper materials and replacement parts;
- e) any known deficiency or danger known to the manufacturer and related to the use of their equipment including any remedial measures they deem necessary.
- f) bulletins or instructions from the Administration;
- g) at least once each year, a list of revisions to the manual(s) and a list of bulletins affecting the manual(s) that are in effect.

NOTE Such a list can be substituted by providing electronic access to manufacturers' manuals and bulletins.

**4.3.4** The servicing stations shall inform the manufacturer of any shipping casualties known to them and involving appliances produced by that manufacturer and also of any known deficiency of appliances.

## 5 Servicing manual

The servicing manual shall include information and instructions, as a minimum, covering the following:

- a) removal of the appliance from its storage unit, if fitted, without damaging the appliance or its contents;
- b) unpacking and examination of the appliance and its storage unit, if fitted, for damage, wear and deterioration;
- c) determination of any need for and repairs of appliances (repairs not covered by the manufacturer's instructions shall not be performed);
- d) determination of when an appliance shall be replaced or is no longer fit for purpose or is beyond economical repair;
- e) identification of components and items due for replacement and/or recalibration;
- f) conduct of tests as required by the relevant parts of the ISO 18079 series;
- g) repacking and marking of the appliance;
- h) listing of spare parts, dated items, tools, testing and measuring devices and repair materials.

## 6 Servicing station — Quality assurance

### 6.1 General

To ensure the consistent quality of the servicing station quality management system described in this document, the implementation of a quality management system, such as ISO 9001, is recommended. Where elements of the servicing are conducted by subcontract, the servicing stations quality management system shall encompass their subcontractors.

### 6.2 Quality management system

The quality management system shall cover as a minimum the following:

- a) Provision and maintenance of facilities, plant and equipment
- b) Calibration of equipment
- c) Training requirements
- d) Supervision and verification of operations
- e) Document management
- f) Traceability
- g) Work procedures and instructions
- h) Complaint management including procedures for dealing with non-conformities
- i) Periodic review of quality assurance efficiency
- j) The specific requirements, as applicable, found in this standard series.

## 7 Servicing facilities and provisions

**7.1** For inflatable liferafts approved by a SOLAS contracting government or its recognised organisations, the servicing station and facilities shall comply with paragraphs 1.1 through 1.15 of the annex to IMO Assembly Resolution A.761(18), as amended. In addition, the following provisions shall be met for all inflatable life-saving appliances.

**7.2** Servicing of the appliances shall be carried out in fully enclosed spaces only. There shall be ample room for the appliances expected to be serviced at any one time; the ceiling shall be sufficiently high to allow for appropriate inspection and servicing of the largest appliances for which the servicing station is approved.

**7.3** Working areas shall be provided with clean surfaces sufficiently smooth to ensure that no damage will occur to the appliances serviced.

**7.4** Working areas shall be well lit; however, sensitive parts and materials shall be protected against direct rays of sunlight.

**7.5** The temperature and relative humidity in working areas shall be sufficiently controlled to ensure that servicing and repairs can be conducted efficiently.

**7.6** The servicing space shall be efficiently ventilated, but be free from draughts.

**7.7** Separate areas or rooms shall be provided for:

- a) storage of appliances awaiting servicing;
- b) storage of appliances serviced awaiting delivery;
- c) repair of glass-fibre elements;
- d) maintenance of compressed gas cylinders;
- e) materials and spare parts;
- f) administrative purposes.

**7.8** Dangerous items such as pyrotechnics and lithium-based batteries shall be stored safely and well away from servicing and other storage spaces. Expired items shall be segregated from spare items.

**7.9** Sufficient tools shall be available for the servicing of appliances in accordance with the requirements of the manufacturer, including:

- a) suitable and accurate manometers or pressure gauges, thermometers and barometers which can be easily read;
- b) means for inflating appliances using clean dry air;
- c) means for deflating appliances;
- d) means for weighing inflation gas cylinders with sufficient accuracy;
- e) appropriate tools for disassembling, assembling and fitting of the gas inflation system as described in the manufacturer's instructions.

**7.10** Procedures shall be established to ensure that each gas cylinder is properly filled and gastight before fitting to equipment.

**7.11** Sufficient materials and accessories shall be available for repairing equipment, together with emergency equipment replacement parts.

**7.12** Provisions for making available to the certified personnel conducting the servicing of appliances the manufacturer's instructions and information and updates thereto.

**7.13** Provisions for making available to the ship owner/end user documentation of the approval by the Administration, the manufacturers' accreditation, the certification of personnel and other relevant information.

**7.14** Smoking, eating and drinking shall not be allowed in the servicing and packing areas.

## **8 Training and certification of servicing personnel**

### **8.1 General**

Prior to applying for training and certification by a manufacturer, the applicant shall have obtained appropriate practical servicing experience under the supervision of a certified technician.

The applicant should be able to read and understand manuals and bulletins issued by the manufacturer and Administrations.

## 8.2 Training programme

### 8.2.1 General

The training programme for certification of new servicing technicians (not previously certified by the manufacturer) shall consist of training and practice in the inspection and packing of appliances covered by the ISO 18079 series, as appropriate.

### 8.2.2 Initial certification of new technicians

The training programme shall include, as a minimum:

- a) procedures for receiving appliances for service, including receiving inspection and unpacking, as appropriate, in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- b) preparation of the appliance for inspection in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- c) inspection of the appliance and its component parts in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- d) testing of the equipment in accordance with the relevant part of ISO 18079 and the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- e) procedures for repair of the equipment, when necessary, with the appropriate materials in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- f) procedures for repacking of the equipment with the appropriate materials in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- g) procedures for marking and documentation control in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing manual;
- h) practical and written evaluation at the end of the training course to determine whether each technician has successfully completed the training;
- i) issuance of a certificate to each technician who successfully completes the training. The certificate shall indicate the period for which it is valid which shall be no more than three years.

The certificate shall, for reasons of easy identification, be provided with a photo of the holder. Additionally, the certificate should specify what types of appliances are covered by the certificate.

### 8.2.3 Recertification training

The manufacturer shall maintain refresher training for recertification of previously certified technicians. This training shall include:

- a) checking the performance of the technicians in the inspection and operations described in the relevant manuals;
- b) retraining of the technicians in any procedures in which they are deficient.;
- c) training and practice in new equipment and procedures since their last training;
- d) an evaluation at the end of the training course to determine whether each technician has successfully completed the training;
- e) issuance of a certificate to each technician who successfully completes the training. The certificate shall indicate the period for which it is valid which shall be no more than three years.

The certificate shall, for reasons of easy identification, be provided with a photo of the holder. Additionally, the certificate should specify what types of appliances are covered by the certificate.