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APPLICATION OF SOLAS AMENDMENTS TO SHIPS
CONSTRUCTED BEFORE THE APPLICATION DATE OF THE AMENDMENTS

Interpretation of regulation II-1/1.3 of the 1974
SOLAS Convention, as amended

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-second session (24 to 28 May 1993), noted that the existing text of regulation II-1/1.3 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended, which refers to the application date of 1 July 1986, was valid only with respect to the 1983 SOLAS amendments entered into force on 1 July 1986, but does not cover satisfactorily subsequent amendments adopted by the Committee.

2 Having considered the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety, the Committee agreed to the following interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/1.3 to cover the application of the SOLAS amendments to existing ships in general:

"Unless expressly provided otherwise, an amendment to this chapter should apply to ships constructed on or after the date on which the amendment enters into force. All ships which undergo repairs, alterations, modifications and outfitting related thereto should continue to comply with at least the requirements previously applicable to such ships. Such ships, if constructed before the date on which the amendment enters into force, should, as a rule, comply with the requirements for ships constructed on or after that date to at least the same extent as they did before undergoing such repairs, alterations, modifications or outfitting. Repairs, alterations and modifications of a major character and outfitting related thereto should meet the requirements for ships constructed on or after the date on which the amendment enters into force, in so far as the Administration deems reasonable and practicable."

3 Member Governments are invited to take account of the above interpretation when applying relevant SOLAS amendments to ships constructed before the application date of those amendments, pending further action by the Committee, regarding adoption of the interpretation as an amendment to the SOLAS Convention, in the light of an input in other relevant areas to be made by the pertinent sub-committees.