

RESOLUTION A.333(IX)

*Adopted on 12 November 1975
Agenda item 7(c)*

**RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THE
APPROVAL OF SERVICING STATIONS FOR
INFLATABLE LIFERAFTS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning the functions of the Assembly,

BEARING IN MIND Recommendation 23 of the International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1960, by which Contracting Governments are recommended to ensure that servicing stations for inflatable liferafts should comply with the requirements of the Government of the country in which they are situated,

NOTING ALSO Resolution A.273(VIII) concerning the survey of inflatable liferafts,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Report of the Maritime Safety Committee on its thirty-second session,

ADOPTS the Recommendation on the Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts, appearing at Annex hereto,

INVITES Administrations to ensure that servicing stations for inflatable liferafts comply with the requirements of this Recommendation.

ANNEX

**RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THE
APPROVAL OF SERVICING STATIONS FOR
INFLATABLE LIFERAFTS**

1. Administrations should ensure that periodic survey of inflatable liferafts is performed at servicing stations that have demonstrated competence to service and re-pack rafts, maintain an adequate facility and use only properly trained personnel. Servicing stations, which should have demonstrated this capability for inflatable liferafts of each manufacturer whose rafts they service, should comply with the following:

- (a) servicing of inflatable liferafts should be carried out in fully enclosed spaces only. There should be ample room for the number of inflatable liferafts expected to be serviced at any one time; the ceiling should be sufficiently high to overturn, when inflated, the largest liferaft to be serviced;
- (b) the floor surface should be provided with an easily cleaned coating, sufficiently smooth to ensure that no damage will occur to the liferaft fabric;
- (c) the servicing space should be well lit, provided that direct rays of sunlight do not enter the space;

- (d) the temperature and, when necessary, the relative humidity in the servicing space should be sufficiently controlled to ensure that servicing can be effectively carried out;
- (e) the servicing space should be efficiently ventilated, but be free from draughts;
- (f) separate areas or rooms should be provided for:
 - (i) liferafts awaiting servicing, repair or delivery;
 - (ii) the repair of glass fibre containers and painting CO₂ cylinders;
 - (iii) materials or spare parts;
 - (iv) administrative purposes;
- (g) means should be provided in the liferaft storage space to ensure that liferafts in containers or valises are not stored in more than two tiers or subjected to excessive loads;
- (h) spare and obsolete pyrotechnics should be stored in an approved, safe and secure magazine well away from the servicing and stowage spaces;
- (i) sufficient tools should be available for the servicing of liferafts and release gear in accordance with the requirements of the manufacturer, including:
 - (i) manometers or pressure gauges and thermometers which can be easily read with sufficient accuracy;
 - (ii) dual purpose air-pump(s) for inflating and deflating liferafts, together with the necessary high pressure hoses and adaptors;
 - (iii) a suitable pair of scales for weighing CO₂ cylinders with sufficient accuracy;
 - (iv) sufficient gas for blowing through the inlet system of the liferafts;
- (j) procedures and arrangements should be made to ensure that a gas cylinder is properly filled and gas-tight before fitting to a liferaft;
- (k) sufficient materials and accessories should be available for repairing liferafts together with replacements of the emergency equipment;
- (l) when servicing davit-launched liferafts adequate means should be provided for over-load testing of such liferafts;
- (m) servicing and repair work should only be carried out by qualified persons who have been adequately trained to the satisfaction of the Administration. The training procedure should ensure that servicing personnel are made aware of changes and new techniques;
- (n) arrangements should be made with the manufacturer to make available:
 - (i) changes to servicing manuals, servicing bulletins and instructions;
 - (ii) proper materials and replacement parts;
 - (iii) bulletins or instructions from the Administration;
- (o) smoking should not be allowed in the servicing and packing areas.

2. After initial approval Administrations should arrange for the frequent inspection of servicing stations to ensure that standards are maintained.

3. Each servicing station should prepare and transmit to the Administration, at regular intervals, statistics showing the nature and extent of damages to and defects found in liferafts during servicing and repair work.