

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



Lifeboat/Rescue Boat Drills Declined by Port Authority

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1. Introduction

SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 19.3.4.3 and Regulation 19.3.4.6 requires that every lifeboat and rescue boat on a vessel is launched and manoeuvred in the water by its assigned operating crew, at least once every 3 months.

This Administration is aware of instances in which a ship has requested to conduct these drills during a port or terminal call and has had this request declined by the relevant authority.

As these drills are an explicit requirement of SOLAS, ships risk being given Port State Control or vetting inspection deficiencies if they are not carried out within the required timeframe.

This guidance is issued to provide information on the actions to be taken if a vessel has had their request to conduct these drills refused.

2. Reporting Requirements

In order to gain both an understanding of the factors that may lead to drills being refused by ports and terminals, and also to find out if this is a widespread problem, we request the following:

- All Red Ensign Group (REG) Flagged vessels which have their requests to conduct boat drills refused are to complete report form DRF1 and submit it to marine.survey@gov.im.

Report form DRF1 can be [downloaded here](#).

Upon receipt of report form DRF1 the Administration will if necessary contact the port authority using the details provided to follow up on any details.

The other Red Ensign Group (REG) Registries have also instructed their ships to complete report form DRF1 and these will be analysed to determine if there are any trends or patterns.

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

