



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 023

SOLAS 74 AS AMENDED, CHAPTER II/1, Reg.29.3.2

Sea trials - Test of steering gears at the deepest draught at new construction

**TO: SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS
SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

APPLICABLE TO: All vessels to which SOLAS 74 – Chapter II/1 – Reg. 29.3.2 apply

ENTRY INTO FORCE: DATE OF THE PRESENT CIRCULAR

Monaco, 11th February 2008

SOLAS Regulation I/29.3.2 requires that the main steering gear and rudder stock of vessels shall be capable of putting the rudder over from 35° on one side to 35° on the other side when the ship is at its **deepest seagoing draught** and running ahead at maximum ahead service speed and, under the same conditions, from 35° on either side to 30° on the other side in no more than 28s.

SOLAS Regulation I/29.4.2 lays down equivalent provisions for auxiliary steering gears.

However, certain vessel types cannot be tested before delivery with full tank load nor, by design, ballasted to the deepest seagoing draught. Therefore the sea trials of these vessels at new construction cannot be carried out at the said draft. Consequently, the steering gear tests during the sea trials of these vessel types are neither carried out at the deepest sea going draught.

When the vessel cannot be tested at the deepest seagoing draught, this Administration can accept the IACS Unified Requirement M 42 (Rev 3/1997) which states in its paragraph 15(i) that alternative trial conditions may be specially considered.

The applied conditions of draught and trim are to be such that the condition of full rudder blade immersion is met, physically and/or equivalent by calculation, and the speed is set to be equal to or higher than the design operating speed at the maximum draught.

Alternative trial conditions will be conducted accordingly to the satisfaction of RO .