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Your ref:
Our ref: **MS/3/7/0152**

16 November 2010

ILSTO designation No 16

MCA Approved Independent Lifeboat Servicing and Testing Organisation (ILSTO) – Extension to Approval

This is to confirm that Cobalt Blue Ltd fulfils the requirements set in Part 1, Appendix 3 of the Annex to Merchant Shipping Notice 1803 (M) LIFEBOATS - Measures to Prevent Accidents.

Please note that this approval is only valid if the MCA holds up-to-date information from Cobalt Blue Ltd such as ISO accreditation and documentation regarding service engineer qualifications. Updated documentation may be required for re-approval. MCA maintain the right to withdraw the approval at any time should it be considered that the company no longer meets the approval requirements.

Cobalt Blue Ltd can operate as a Independent Lifeboats Servicing and Testing Organisation until 1 July 2012 (ISO Certificate expiry date) or until such a date earlier when the IMO guidelines are replaced.

This approval also includes the following subsidiary offices of the company:

- 1) Cobalt Blue SRL, Incinta Port Constanta, Depozitul Nr. 1, Etaj 1, Judetul Constanta, Romania
- 2) Cobalt Blue USA Inc, 2323 Bainbridge Street, Building B, Suite 9, Kenner LA 70062 USA



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Please confirm receipt of this letter & please verify the ILSTO contact list for information accuracy on the link below:

<http://www.mcga.gov.uk> – workingatsea – healthandsafety - ilsto

Yours sincerely,



Prasad Panicker
Survey Operations Manager



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MIN 424 (M)

Life-Saving Appliances; Lifeboats, Rigid Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and On-load Release Gear - Acceptance of Service Suppliers

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crews of Merchant Ships

Summary

This Marine Information Note provides guidance on the acceptance of Service Suppliers, to work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear on-board UK ships.

Service Suppliers other than the Original Equipment Manufacturer, carrying out the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear should be authorised to do so.

Background

- 1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has until now approved individual Service Suppliers wishing to conduct statutory work on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear on-board UK ships. This approval was in accordance with Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1803 (M) Appendix 3, 'Approval procedure for Independent Lifeboat Service and Testing Organisation' (ILSTO).
- 2 As per MSN 1803 (M) Appendix 3, the MCA has kept this policy under review and decided to no longer approve ILSTOs individually.

Acceptance of Service Suppliers Undertaking Work on UK Registered Ships

- 3 The MCA authorises the following to conduct this work:
 - 3.1 The Original Equipment Manufacturer or one of their representatives; or
 - 3.2 A UK Recognised Organisation approved Service Supplier; or

- 3.3 An existing MCA approved Independent Lifeboat Service and Testing Organisation (ILSTO), until such a time as their approval expires.

- 4 All thorough examinations, operational testing, repair and overhaul work undertaken on lifeboats, rigid rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear should be conducted in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1.

Approval of Service Suppliers by UK Recognised Organisations

- 5 The Original Equipment Manufacturer, and their representatives, do not require further approval to conduct work on their own equipment. However, should they wish to conduct service work on equipment other than their own, then approval should be sought.
- 6 New Service Suppliers and existing MCA ILSTOs whose approval is due for renewal, should approach a UK Recognised Organisation and seek their approval as Service Suppliers for the equipment on which they wish to undertake work. Details of UK Recognised Organisations can be found in the MSN 1672 (M+F) as amended.
- 7 The Recognised Organisation's procedure for approval of the Service Supplier should be based on the following:
- 7.1 International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Z17 "Procedural Requirements for Service Suppliers"; and
 - 7.2 International Maritime Organization (IMO) MSC.1/Circ.1277 "Interim recommendations on conditions for authorisation of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear".

More Information

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