INSUFFICIENT PASSAGE WIDTH IN FREE FALL LIFEBOATS

Information Notice 64

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives, and Recognized Organizations

This Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the Notice Letter issued by Nishi-F Co., Ltd. regarding insufficient passage width in free fall lifeboats. It has been confirmed that the passage width inside the affected lifeboats does not meet the minimum width requirement of 480 mm, as specified in paragraph 4.7.2.1 of the IMO Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code.

Affected Products:
Free-Fall Lifeboat Model: FF-65（Capacity: 25 persons）
Manufacturing period: From October 2010

To this effect, ship managers and operators of Maltese registered vessels equipped with free fall lifeboat model FF-65 (Capacity: 25 persons) are kindly instructed to address this shortcoming within the earliest opportunity by implementing corrective measures developed by the manufacturer.

Recognised Organisations shall identify all vessels affected and verify that compliance is confirmed by the first Cargo Ship Safety Equipment annual/intermediate/renewal survey, but in all cases not later than 31 December 2026.

Merchant Shipping Directorate 17 November 2026

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