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4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

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**CLARIFICATION OF THE TERM "FIRST SCHEDULED DRY-DOCKING" AS CONTAINED  
IN SOLAS REGULATION III/1.5, AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION MSC.317(89)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012), with a view to ensuring a uniform approach towards the application of SOLAS regulation III/1.5 concerning lifeboat on-load release mechanisms, approved a clarification of the term "first scheduled dry-docking" as contained in SOLAS regulation III/1.5, as amended by resolution MSC.317(89), as follows:

"In the context of SOLAS regulation III/1.5, the wording "first scheduled dry-docking" was introduced to mean the "first scheduled out of water survey of the ship's outer bottom". This explanation is to clarify that the on-load release mechanisms need not be compliant during an in-water survey, should this occur before a dry-docking."

2 Member Governments are invited to use the above clarification when applying the requirements of SOLAS regulation III/1.5 and to bring it to the attention of all parties concerned and, in particular, port State control officers.

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