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MSC.1/Circ.1422
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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL
PURPOSE SHIPS, 2008 (2008 SPS CODE)**

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 the provisions of the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 2008 (2008 SPS Code) and, following a recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment at its fifty-fifth session, approved the annexed unified interpretations of the 2008 SPS Code.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed interpretations from 21 May 2012 when applying the relevant provisions of the 2008 SPS Code and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS, 2008 (2008 SPS CODE) (Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7 and 10)

CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL

Section 1.2 – Application

Nothing in the Code should be taken as precluding the application of the provisions of SOLAS regulations II-1/1.4, II-2/1.4, III/2.1, IV/3.2.1 or V/3.2 as deemed appropriate by the Administration.

CHAPTER 2 – STABILITY AND SUBDIVISION

Paragraph 2.5

In applying the provisions of paragraph 2.5 of the Code in relation to determining the bilge pump numeral in accordance with SOLAS regulation II-1/35-1, the number of passengers should be taken as the number of special personnel included in the "Record of Equipment for the Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate" which the ship is certificated to carry.

CHAPTER 6 – FIRE PROTECTION

Paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2

In all instances where the Code refers to application of the requirements of SOLAS for passenger ships, such as in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2, the general requirements relating to passenger ships in SOLAS, irrespective of the number of passengers, should be applied; and in addition the requirements relevant to ships carrying not more than 36 passengers or to ships carrying more than 36 passengers, should be applied as instructed by the Code.

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of the Code, the provisions of SOLAS regulations II-2/21 and 22 should only be applied on ships which carry more than 240 persons.

CHAPTER 7 – DANGEROUS GOODS

Paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6

In applying the provisions of paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6 of the Code, "formal safety assessment" means a documented risk assessment, but not a full FSA study in accordance with the FSA Guidelines (MSC/Circ.1023-MEPC/Circ.392), as may be amended.

CHAPTER 10 – SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

In applying the provisions of chapter 10 of the Code, and thereby the requirements of SOLAS chapter V, special purpose ships carrying not more than 240 persons on board should comply with the provisions relating to cargo ships, and special purpose ships carrying more than 240 persons on board should comply with the provisions relating to passenger ships according to the gross tonnage, where so specified.