VOLUNTARY EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SOLAS CONVENTION AND THE LSA CODE ADOPTED BY RESOLUTIONS MSC.482(103) AND MSC.485(103), RESPECTIVELY

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 103rd session (5 to 14 May 2021), adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation III/33.2 and paragraph 4.4.1.3.2 of the LSA Code by resolutions MSC.482(103) and MSC.485(103), respectively. The expected entry-into-force date of the aforementioned amendments is 1 January 2024.

2 In adopting the amendments to the SOLAS Convention and the LSA Code, the Committee, having considered the need for their voluntary early implementation, in accordance with the Guidelines on the voluntary early implementation of amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and related mandatory instruments (MSC.1/Circ.1565), agreed to invite SOLAS Contracting Governments to implement them prior to the entry-into-force date.

3 Voluntary early implementation of the amendments by a Contracting Government should be communicated to the Organization, for dissemination through GISIS. In addition, a Contracting Government may also consider the use of the existing provisions for equivalent arrangements under SOLAS regulation I/5 to cover the interim period between the date of the voluntary early implementation and the entry-into-force date of the amendments.

4 A Contracting Government, in line with paragraph 1.2.4 of the Procedures for port State control, 2019 (resolution A.1138(31)), as may be amended, when acting as a port State, should refrain from enforcing its decision to voluntarily implement the amendments early on ships flying the flag of other Contracting Governments, calling at its ports.

5 Contracting Governments, when undertaking port State control activities, should take into account the present invitation and any subsequent notifications communicated by other Contracting Governments through GISIS.

6 Contracting Governments are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control authorities and recognized organizations.