SAFETY

1956 No. 645

Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) (Amendment) Rules, 1956

Made - - - -	*25th April*, 1956
Laid before Parliament	*2nd May*, 1956
Coming into Operation	*1st October*, 1956

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in exercise of his powers under Section 427 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894(**a**), as substituted by Section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act, 1949(**b**), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, hereby makes the following Rules:—

1.—(1) These Rules shall come into operation on the First day of October, 1956, and may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) (Amendment) Rules, 1956.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(**c**), shall apply to the interpretation of these Rules as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. The Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Rules, 1952(**d**), shall be amended as follows:—

(*a*) (i) In paragraph (2) of Rule 1 after the definition of "Fishing boat" there shall be added the following definition:—

"Inflatable liferaft" means an inflatable liferaft which complies with the requirements specified in the Thirteenth Schedule to these Rules.

(ii) For the expression "Passenger certificate" there shall be substituted the expression "Passenger steamer's certificate".

(*b*) In Rule 3, and in Rule 5 in so far as it applies, by virtue of Rule 6, to ships of Class IIA, and in Rules 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 20 and 34, after the words "buoyant apparatus", wherever they occur, there shall be added the words "or inflatable liferafts".

(*c*) For paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of Rule 18 there shall be substituted the following paragraphs:—

"(3) Every ship to which this Rule applies of under 145 feet in length but not under 100 feet in length shall carry a lifeboat of sufficient capacity to accommodate all persons on board, so stowed that it can readily be placed in the water on either side of the ship. Every such ship shall also carry inflatable liferafts on the following scale:—

Ships with fewer than 13 persons on board	at least one inflatable liferaft.
Ships with 13 or more persons on board ...	at least two inflatable liferafts.

(**a**) 57 & 58 Vict. c. 60. (**b**) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 43. (**c**) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
(**d**) S.I. 1952/1949 (1952 II, p. 1889).

The inflatable liferafts carried shall be of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board the ship and shall be so stowed that they can be readily transferred to the water on either side of the ship. At least four lifebuoys shall be carried.

(4) Every ship to which this Rule applies of under 100 feet in length but not under 70 feet in length shall carry a lifeboat of sufficient capacity to accommodate all persons on board, so stowed that it can readily be placed in the water on either side of the ship. Every such ship shall also carry inflatable liferafts on the following scale:—

Ships with fewer than 13 persons on board	at least one inflatable liferaft.
Ships with 13 or more persons on board ...	at least two inflatable liferafts.

The inflatable liferafts carried shall be of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board the ship and shall be so stowed that they can be readily transferred to the water on either side of the ship. At least two lifebuoys shall be carried.

(5) (*a*) Every ship to which this Rule applies of under 70 feet in length but not under 50 feet in length which proceeds on a voyage north of latitude 61°N. or south of latitude 48° 30′N. or west of longitude 12°W. shall carry a boat so stowed that it can readily be placed in the water. Every such ship shall also carry inflatable liferafts on the following scale:—

Ships with fewer than 13 persons on board	at least one inflatable liferaft.
Ships with 13 or more persons on board ...	at least two inflatable liferafts.

The inflatable liferafts carried shall be of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board the ship, and shall be so stowed that they can readily be transferred to the water on either side of the ship. Two lifebuoys shall be carried.

(*b*) Every ship to which this Rule applies of under 70 feet in length but not under 50 feet in length which proceeds only on voyages which do not extend north of latitude 61°N. or south of latitude 48° 30′N. or west of longitude 12°W. shall carry inflatable liferafts on the following scale:—

Ships with fewer than 13 persons on board	at least one inflatable liferaft.
Ships with 13 or more persons on board ...	at least two inflatable liferafts.

The inflatable liferafts carried shall be of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board the ship, and shall be so stowed that they can readily be transferred to the water on either side of the ship. Two lifebuoys shall be carried.

(*c*) Every ship to which this Rule applies of under 50 feet in length but not under 40 feet in length which proceeds on a voyage north of latitude 61°N. or south of latitude 48° 30′N. or west of longitude 12°W. shall carry a boat so stowed that it can readily be placed in the water. Every such ship shall also carry buoyant apparatus or inflatable liferafts of sufficient aggregate capacity to

accommodate all persons on board the ship, so stowed that they can readily be transferred to the water on either side of the ship. Two lifebuoys shall be carried.

(*d*) Every ship to which this Rule applies of under 50 feet in length but not under 40 feet in length which proceeds only on voyages which do not extend north of latitude 61°N. or south of latitude 48° 30′N. or west of longitude 12°W. shall carry buoyant apparatus or inflatable liferafts of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board the ship, so stowed that they can readily be transferred to the water on either side of the ship. Two lifebuoys shall be carried."

(*d*) After Rule 26 there shall be inserted the following Rule:—

"*Inflatable Liferafts*

26A. Every inflatable liferaft carried in a ship in accordance with these Rules shall be provided with the equipment specified in the Fourteenth Schedule to these Rules.

PROVIDED THAT inflatable liferafts carried in ships of Classes IIA, III, IV, V, VI and VIA shall not be required to be provided with the equipment specified in paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) of the said Fourteenth Schedule."

(*e*) For the heading to Rule 27 there shall be substituted the following heading:—

"Marking of Lifeboats, Buoyant Apparatus and Inflatable Liferafts."

(*f*) For paragraph (2) of Rule 27 there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

"(2) The number of persons which buoyant apparatus is fit to support, and the number of persons which an inflatable liferaft is fit to carry, shall be clearly marked in permanent characters on the apparatus or liferaft, as the case may be, and on the valise or other container in which the liferaft is contained."

(*g*) In the proviso to paragraph (1) of Rule 31 for the words "which does not proceed north of latitude 61°N. or south of latitude 48° 30′N. or west of longitude 12°W." there shall be substituted the words "of under 145 feet in length but not under 40 feet in length which carries an inflatable liferaft in accordance with the provisions of these Rules."

(*h*) After the Twelfth Schedule there shall be added the following Schedules:—

"THIRTEENTH SCHEDULE

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFLATABLE LIFERAFTS

Rule 1 (2)

Every inflatable liferaft shall comply with the following requirements:—

(1) It shall be contained in a valise or other container so constructed as to be capable of withstanding hard wear under conditions met with at sea.

(2) The liferaft shall be so constructed that if it is thrown from the ship into the water it will not be damaged.

(3) The total weight of the liferaft, the valise or container and the equipment specified in the Fourteenth Schedule to these Rules shall not exceed 400 lb. unless suitable means are provided to enable the liferaft to be launched without lifting by hand.

(4) The inflation shall take place automatically either on the pulling of a line or by some other equally simple and efficient method.

(5) The liferaft shall be fitted with a painter and shall have a line securely becketed round the outside.

(6) The liferaft shall be capable of being readily righted if it inflates in an inverted position.

(7) The liferaft shall be fitted with a cover which shall be capable of protecting the occupants against injury from exposure. The top of the cover shall be fitted with a lamp which derives its luminosity from a sea-activated cell.

(8) When inflated and floating with the cover uppermost the liferaft shall be stable in a seaway.

(9) The liferaft shall be capable when inflated of supporting out of the water and under cover the number of persons which it is fit to carry.

(10) The liferaft shall be fitted with efficient means to enable persons in the water to climb on board.

(11) The liferaft shall be so constructed as to afford sufficient room for comfortable seating for the number of persons it is fit to carry.

(12) The buoyancy of the liferaft shall be so arranged as to ensure, by a division into two separate compartments each capable of supporting out of the water the number of persons referred to in paragraph (9) of this Schedule, or by some other equally efficient means, that there is a reasonable margin of buoyancy if the raft is damaged or partially fails to inflate.

(13) The floor of the liferaft shall be waterproof and shall be capable of being sufficiently insulated against cold either

(*a*) by means of one or more compartments which the occupants can inflate if they so desire, or which inflate automatically but can be deflated and, if necessary, re-inflated by the occupants; or

(*b*) by other equally efficient means not dependent on inflation.

FOURTEENTH SCHEDULE

Equipment for Inflatable Liferafts

Rule 26A

(1) Two sea anchors, one permanently attached and one spare with line;

(2) one baler, one sponge and one jack-knife for every twelve persons whom the liferaft is designed to carry;

(3) one topping-up pump or bellows;

(4) one repair kit capable of repairing punctures in the buoyancy compartments;

(5) two parachute signals complying with the provisions of Part V of the Sixth Schedule to these Rules;

(6) in the case of inflatable liferafts which are fit to accommodate not more than 3 persons, six hand flares, and, in the case of other inflatable liferafts, twelve hand flares, capable of giving a bright red light and of projecting two red stars to a height of not less than 200 feet;

(7) one electric torch suitable for morse-signalling, together with one spare battery and one spare bulb;

(8) 3 one pound rust-proof containers of fresh water and 4 ounces of barley sugar or other equally suitable sweets for each person the liferaft is designed to carry;

(9) one rust-proof drinking vessel, graduated in ½, 1 and 2 ozs."

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation this 25th day of April, 1956.

(L.S.) *Harold Watkinson,*
Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Rules, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Rules amend the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Rules, 1952:—

(1) by substituting, for the provisions whereby certain fishing boats of under 145 feet in length but not under 40 feet in length were required to carry buoyant apparatus sufficient to support all persons on board, new provisions whereby all such fishing boats of 50 feet in length or over with fewer than 13 persons on board are required to carry at least one, and all those with 13 or more persons on board are required to carry at least two inflatable liferafts of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board. All such fishing boats of under 50 feet in length but not under 40 feet in length will be required to carry buoyant apparatus or inflatable liferafts of sufficient aggregate capacity to accommodate all persons on board. The existing requirements as to the carriage of lifeboats or other boats, and of lifebuoys, in such fishing boats, are unaffected:

(2) by substituting, for the provision relieving fishing boats which do not proceed north of latitude 61°N. or south of latitude 48° 30′N. or west of longitude 12°W. from the requirement that lifeboats or other boats carried in such ships must be provided with 16 ozs. of biscuits, 16 ozs. of barley sugar and 16 ozs. of sweetened condensed milk of first quality for each person they are fit to carry, a provision relieving from that requirement all fishing boats of under 145 feet in length but not under 40 feet in length which carry one or more inflatable liferafts in accordance with the Rules:

(3) by permitting ships of Classes IIA, III, IV, V, VI, VIA and XII to carry inflatable liferafts in lieu of buoyant apparatus:

(4) by providing that the inflatable liferafts which are thus required or permitted to be carried must comply with the requirements specified in a new Thirteenth Schedule to the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances) Rules, 1952, and must, with certain exceptions, be provided with the equipment specified in a new Fourteenth Schedule to those Rules.