



Mr. Homer Lambert
President
US Marine Safety Association (USMSA)
5458 Wagon Master Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80917

Subj: Acceptance of United States of America Inflatable Liferaft Servicing Stations Approved by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) or by a Classification Society Acting as a Recognized Organization (RO) on Behalf of a Flag Administration

Dear Mr. Lambert:

In response to your October 12, 2001, IACS UR Z17 permits an RO, when so authorized to do so by the flag administration to accept a USCG approved service station or the approval of another RO that is an IACS member for rafts from ships that it attends. Such service stations must meet the IMO requirements and hold a current authorization from the raft manufacturer.

Your understanding is correct. ABS will accept:

Inflatable raft service stations approved by the USCG when so authorized to do so by the flag administration without additional approval by ABS for rafts from ships that are attended by ABS as the RO.

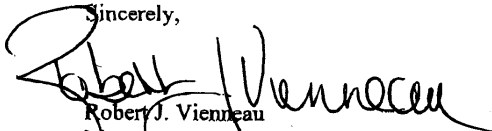
United States of America inflatable raft service stations approved by another IACS Society, authorized to do so by the flag administration, without additional approval by ABS for rafts from ships that are attended by ABS as the RO.

As you note, this acceptance presumes that the service station meets the IMO requirements and that they are authorized by the manufacturer of the raft being serviced from ships.

We believe this determination facilitates timely service while at the same time eliminates unnecessary costs and delays for shipowners.

I look forward to a continuing association with USMSA.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Vienneau
Manager
ABS Programs

CC: ABS Chief Surveyor, ABS Regulatory Affairs, file

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