



# THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

BUREAU OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

8619 WESTWOOD CENTER DRIVE

VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22182, U.S.A.

TEL: (703) 790-3434

FAX: (703) 790-5655

[info@lisr.com](mailto:info@lisr.com)

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

RE: Acceptance of US Inflatable Liferaft Servicing Stations by Recognized  
Organizations Acting on Behalf of Liberia for Rafts from Liberian Ships

Dear Mr. Herman:

In response to your USMSA December 6, 2000 letter, we can confirm that inflatable liferaft servicing stations approved by the US Coast Guard and the manufacturer of the raft being serviced are permitted to service liferafts for Liberian ships which are attended by recognized organizations (ROs) acting on our behalf.

This acceptance presumes that the service station operate in all respects within the constraints specified by the raft manufacturer and the US Coast Guard approval requirements. Additionally, it assumes that all official documentation for such approvals is current and valid. It is understood that the USCG station approval may not be for the make of raft from the Liberian ship. Acceptance of the USCG service station approval demonstrates it is a quality service facility.

We recognize that this approval regime is quite rigorous and that the USCG periodically inspects the facilities to assure they are operating in all respects in accordance with the USCG and manufacturer's requirements.

We agree that it is in the interest of all to clarify this issue to minimize confusion, delays and extra expense for Liberian ships.

We believe this arrangement serves marine safety in US ports. But we in no way suggest that this approach should be followed in all cases in ports of other Administrations. Each Administration's approval arrangement should be viewed on a case-by-case basis. We do however recommend that a fundamental requirement of each Administration should be to require that the service stations be authorized by the manufacturer. This brings with it the necessary training, authorized parts, and oversight that is essential to proper servicing.

We also agree that it is important to convey this information to Liberian shipowners, ship masters and the recognized organizations that act on our behalf. A review of our Marine Notice on lifesaving equipment contains this policy in principle for basic design approvals, but it may be appropriate to be more specific with regard to liferaft servicing. The next

revision will incorporate it. In the interim, we will notify the ROs and our shipowners. We appreciate your offer to distribute this information in local US ports.

We do ask that USMSA stress to the service stations that this acceptance assumes both USCG and the manufacturer's approval. Additionally, we ask that you stress to them the importance of currency of the approval documentation. The information on the USMSA website listing which manufactures and their "authorized" various servicing stations will be a great assist to ship masters and agents in assuring that rafts are sent only to authorized facilities.

We look forward to working with USMSA in future projects to improve maritime safety.

Sincerely,

**Anthony Dupree, Jr.**

Anthony Dupree, Jr.

For the Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Safety

Republic of Liberia