



Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
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Safety Directive

Lifesaving Equipment Arrangements

File No.: 20,100.13

April 20, 2010

The current design standard for life saving equipment such as lifeboats and liferafts, required under section 22 of the Installations Regulations, is based on an IMO SOLAS standard of 75 Kg. per person. Several international studies have shown this value to be low, and consequently, a number of jurisdictions have adjusted that value to more accurately reflect the realities of today's workforce. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board had recently issued a similar notice which requires a value of 100 Kg. per person which includes a survival suit.

By legislation, operators are required to declare that all equipment is "fit for purpose". Furthermore authorizations are subject to the Board's OSH Requirements, including the general duty clauses. Therefore, operators are directed to ensure that the total approved weight capacity for all lifesaving equipment is not exceeded. This will require a daily calculation of the actual weight of personnel and equipment assigned to each piece of lifesaving equipment and, where necessary, a down manning of personnel in order to stay within the approved weight limitation. As an alternative, pursuant to section 155 of the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* (federal version), operators are authorized to use a design weight of 100 Kg. per person, including survival suit, as an acceptable design standard for all lifesaving appliances.

In addition to weight, the actual space requirements of persons wearing survival suits must be considered. Operators are directed to confirm that all lifesaving equipment is sized and arranged to effectively accommodate all assigned persons while wearing their survival suits.

Certifying Authorities are also directed to adopt the direction and values described in this notice with regards to life saving appliances which are subject to the certificate of fitness process.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact:

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