

**GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION**  
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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**Shipping Guidance Notice – 017**

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To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

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**PERIODICAL TESTING AND OR SERVICING OF LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES**

Following a number of enquires from our ship owners and operators for clarification of the requirements of the Gibraltar Maritime Administration in relation to the periodical testing and/or servicing of certain items of life saving appliances, please be advised as follows:

- Liferrafts:

Annually by authorised shore based service station.

- Hydrostatic Release Device:

Annually by authorised shore based service station. Disposable types (Hammer, etc.) to be replaced before the expiry date.

- Breathing Apparatus:

Annual inspection of BA sets to be carried out by authorised shore based service station. Pressure testing not exceeding 5 years.

- Emergence Escape Breathing Devices (EEBDs):

If rechargeable type (mini BA set) then requirements for BA apply. If hermetically enclosed or sealed type (normally in a small orange sealed plastic box), then service and maintenance as per Maker's instructions.

- Portable Fire Extinguishers:

Annual inspection of portable fire extinguishers to be carried out by authorised shore based service station. Alternatively, every other year the inspection may be performed by a suitably trained crewmember (designated and trained officers). Pressure testing not exceeding 10 years.

- Fixed Fire Extinguishing System (CO2):

Every second year the complete installation to be inspected, serviced and certified by authorised shore based service station. For the annual inspection (every other year), a level check of all bottles must be undertaken, which may be performed and documented by the crew (designated and trained officers). 10% of the cylinders are to be internally inspected and hydrostatically pressure tested every 10 years.

Alan Cubbin  
Maritime Administrator

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All notices are available through [www.gibmaritime.com](http://www.gibmaritime.com)

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