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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF SOLAS REGULATION XIV/2.2
AND PARAGRAPHS 1.3.2 AND 1.3.6, PART I-A OF THE POLAR CODE**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), with a view to providing more specific guidance on the initial and maintenance surveys as required in the provisions of SOLAS chapter XIV and the Polar Code, approved the Unified interpretations of SOLAS regulation XIV/2.2 and paragraphs 1.3.2 and 1.3.6, part I-A of the Polar Code, as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying SOLAS regulation XIV/2.2 and paragraphs 1.3.2 and 1.3.6, part I-A of the Polar Code and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

**UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF SOLAS REGULATION XIV/2.2
AND PARAGRAPHS 1.3.2 AND 1.3.6, PART I-A OF THE POLAR CODE**

The implementation of initial and maintenance surveys as required in SOLAS regulation XIV/2.2, as adopted by resolution MSC.386(94), and paragraphs 1.3.2 and 1.3.6, part I-A of the Polar Code, as adopted by resolution MSC.385(94), should be interpreted as indicated in the following table:

INITIAL AND MAINTENANCE SURVEYS PERTAINING TO SOLAS CHAPTER XIV AND THE POLAR CODE

1. Ships under Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) Scheme			
Type of ship	Initial Survey for issuance of the Polar Ship Certificate	Surveys for the maintenance of the Polar Ship Certificate	Surveys for renewal of the Polar Ship certificate
Passenger Ship	First passenger ship's safety renewal survey after 1 January 2018.	Not applicable.	Every year.
Cargo ship	First Safety Construction intermediate survey or renewal survey, as required by SOLAS regulation I/10, whichever occurs first after 1 January 2018.	<p>a) Aligned with maintenance survey (annual or intermediate) related to the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate. The Polar Ship Certificate should be endorsed upon satisfactory results of the maintenance survey related to the Polar Code and Cargo Ship Safety; or</p> <p>b) Aligned with maintenance survey (annual or intermediate) related to the Safety Construction Certificate. The Polar Ship Certificate should be endorsed upon satisfactory results of the maintenance survey (annual or intermediate) related to the Polar Code and Safety Construction, provided that valid Safety Equipment and Safety Radio Certificates are held by a ship.</p>	<p>a) Aligned with renewal survey related to the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate. The Polar Ship Certificate should be reissued upon satisfactory results of the renewal survey related to the Polar Code and Cargo Ship Safety; or</p> <p>b) Aligned with renewal Survey of Safety Construction. The Polar Ship Certificate should be reissued upon satisfactory results of the renewal survey related to the Polar Code and Safety Construction, provided that Safety Equipment and Safety Radio Certificates are held by a ship.</p>

2. Ships not under HSSC Scheme			
Type of ship	Initial Survey for issuance of the Polar Ship Certificate	Surveys for the maintenance of the Polar Ship Certificate	Surveys for renewal of the Polar Ship Certificate
Passenger Ship	First passenger ship's safety renewal survey after 1 January 2018.	Not applicable.	Every year.
Cargo Ship	First Safety Construction renewal survey as required by SOLAS regulation I/10, which occurs after 1 January 2018 but, in any case, not later than 31 March 2021.	Aligned with maintenance survey (annual or intermediate) related to the Safety Construction Certificate. The Polar Ship Certificate should be endorsed upon satisfactory results of maintenance survey (annual or intermediate) related to the Polar Code and Safety Construction, provided that valid Safety Equipment and Safety Radio Certificates are held by a ship.	Aligned with renewal Survey of Safety Construction. The Polar Ship Certificate should be reissued upon satisfactory results of the renewal survey related to Polar Code and Safety Construction, provided that Safety Equipment and Safety Radio Certificates are held by a ship.