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**No.:** RSV 13-2016  
**Date:** 15.09.16  
**Journal No.:** 2016/8065  
**Applicable until:** Maximum 31 Dec + 5 years  
**Supersedes:**  
**Reference to:** Excerpts from

### Vacuum packed immersion suits

Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 1019 on life-saving appliances on ships and Regulations of 5 January 1998 No. 6 concerning the construction, equipment and operation of high-speed craft used as passenger craft or cargo craft stipulate requirements for keeping a certain number of immersion suits on board cargo ships and passenger ships.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) is aware that approved immersion suits are being offered for sale in vacuum packed units. Such vacuum packed suits cannot be unpacked and inspected as provided by SOLAS Chapter III.

However, the NMA accepts this type of packaging, and considers the suits to satisfy the requirements of SOLAS regulation III/20.7 and III/36, provided that the following is complied with:

- Instructions for monthly inspections of vacuum packed units from the manufacturer or the manufacturer's representative are available on board; the NMA accepts such instructions in lieu of the monthly inspection procedure described in MSC/Cir.1047.
- A sufficient number of immersion suits in standard packaging, of the same type as the suits that are vacuum packed, must be available to the ship's crew for drills.
- The packaging of the suits must be inspected in accordance with SOLAS III/20.7 and III/36. Should the packaging be damaged or if there is a loss of vacuum, the suits must either be removed from the packaging and inspected in accordance with MSC/Cir.1047 and MSC/Cir.1114 or sent to the manufacturer or a service station for service and repacking.
- Immersion suits that have been removed from its vacuum packaging must be treated as suits in standard packaging in respect of the inspections specified in SOLAS chapter III.
- During a survey, the NMA may require that one or more vacuum packed immersion suits are opened for inspection.

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