We would like to remind Members that as of 1st July 2006, changes in carriage requirement of immersion suits (Regulation 32.3, immersion suits and thermal protective aids, SOLAS 74) on cargo ships with come into effect.

These changes, that are applicable to cargo ships regardless of their date of construction, are as follows:

(a) cargo ships are required to carry immersion suits for every person on board;

(b) additional immersion suits are required to be carried for the number of persons normally on watch or working in work stations which are located remotely from the place or places where immersion suits are normally stowed;

(c) exemption from the carriage of immersion suits may be granted only to cargo ships constantly engaged on voyages in warm climates. Notwithstanding that, bulk carriers cannot be exempted. The term “voyages in warm climates” means voyages within the latitudes of 30ºN and 30ºS;

(d) thermal protective aids are no longer required to be carried except that these are required to be carried in lifeboats and liferafts as part of their equipment.

With respect to cargo ships constructed before 1st July 2006, the new carriage requirements are to be complied with not later than the first safety equipment survey on or after 1st July 2006.

Further information: http://www.mpa.gov.sg/circulars_and_notices/shipping_circulars/sc06-03.htm