

Circular 20 / 2010

To: Shipowners and/or Operators, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Fenner Hydrostatic Release Units for Liferrafts

Date: 27 May 2010

The Swedish Transport Authority has issued a safety recommendation following an investigation into Fenner hydrostatic release units, which are manufactured by Fenerci Denizcilik Egetim Dis Ticaret Ltd Sti of Istanbul, Turkey.

The LSA code requires that the units' float free arrangement automatically releases the liferaft at a depth of no more than 4 metres.

When tested, eight out of ten units failed the test prescribed by the LSA Code and activated at a depth greater than the prescribed 4 metres, and most units failed to cut the painter which attaches the liferaft to the vessel.

Recommendation to all owners and operators: Due to the serious nature of this failure, all owners and operators are advised to check if this product is fitted on any of their vessels. Where a Fenner hydrostatic release unit is found, it is strongly recommended that this product be replaced due to the concerns that it may not meet the minimum safety requirements.