



SAFETY ALERT

- TECHNICAL No. 32

LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES **SAFETY of LIFEBUOYS**

Information about Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558

It has been brought to the attention of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that there could be a potential problem with Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558, manufactured by E.G Vallianatos S.P.A., Athens. During an inspection on board a German vessel by the market surveillance authority the above mentioned lifebuoy was found with a clearly noticeable clattering sound. According to the information provided after cutting the lifebuoy it turned out that nearly one half was not filled with foam as required. In addition some sand-like material was found.

The subject Lifebuoy Eval, Type 558, was issued with the following:

- EC Type Approval Certificate (Module B), by Lloyd's Register on 21 April 2004, Certificate No. MED 0250047/M1;
- Certificate of Conformity (Module F), by Lloyd's Register on 9 December 2004, Certificate No. 0430271-B, for lot 11/04.

Please note that the year of marking is 2004.

Taking the above into account you are requested to take the necessary measures to ensure that the lifebuoys placed on board ships and market are safe and conform to the requirements of the Marine Equipment Directive (96/98/EC) and inform MCA about these or similar cases. The lifebuoy should weigh 2.5kg or more.

It also should be mentioned that lifebuoys in general should be subjected to regular inspection and maintenance in order to determine that the intended function remains intact.