Making a difference: Improving design and training associated with mandatory equipment
Recommendations - Lifeboats

- Until OLRRS modified FPDs should be mandatory
- Seafarers should receive training on use of FPDs
- Following modification of OLRRS FPDs should remain in use until fear levels subside
- Maintenance of OLRRS by certified personnel should be made mandatory
Recommendations – freefall lifeboats

- Leg room in freefall lifeboats should be increased
- Weight height allowance needs adjustment in design of freefall lifeboats and should be reviewed every 5 years
- Freefall lifeboats should be modified to further reduce risk of spinal injuries
Recommendations – life saving equipment

* Liferafts should be modified to allow for unassisted boarding from water by seafarers of different sizes/weights/strengths
* Immersion suits should be required to be lightest possible weight whilst retaining thermal properties
* Immersion suit maintenance and upgrading should be mandatory
* Immersion suits should be required to incorporate 5 finger gloves
Recommendations – life saving equipment

* Regulation should be adapted to require lifejackets to be of minimal bulk and weight whilst retaining buoyancy properties.
* Training standards ashore require improvement in relation to life saving equipment such as lifeboats and liferafts. It is important that all such courses include practical ‘hands on’ experience.
The design of GMDSS should be updated to remove redundant equipment and to maximise user-friendliness.

Companies should be required to provide 24-hour shore-side technical support to seafarers in relation to the use of complex systems such as ECDIS.

Integrated bridge watch alarm systems should replace motion sensitive and manual re-set systems on all new ships.
The effective use of OWS should be supported by continued vigilance in inspection practices and by employers providing filter replacements and permission to dispose of oily waste ashore.

Efforts should be made to ensure that ports provide oily waste reception facilities at low cost.