

Subject

Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs) for the Maltese Flagged vessels

# **ClassNK**

## ***Technical Information***

No. TEC-0862

Date 18 August 2011

To whom it may concern

The Maltese Government has notified ClassNK of the special requirement for fall preventer devices (FPDs) for lifeboats on board Maltese flagged vessels as follows.

Quote (e-mail dated 17 June 2011 and 28 July 2011)

Reference is being made to MSC Resolution 317(89), MSC Resolution 320(89), MSC.1/Circ.1392 and MSC.1/Circ.1327.

This Directorate advises that Fall Preventer Devices should be provided onboard all Maltese ships that are equipped with lifeboat on-load release devices.

Fall Preventer Devices shall remain in use until such time as the said devices have undergone the necessary Design Review and Performance Test, and have been either confirmed compliant with the relevant requirements of the revised Life-Saving Appliances Code or replaced with compliant devices.

Replacement of non-compliant devices is to be effected by the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014 and in any case by not later than 1 July 2019.

This Directorate requires that fall preventer devices be provided on board existing Maltese registered ships by not later than 1 January 2013.

Unquote

(To be continued)

#### NOTES:

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For any questions about the above, please contact:

NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI (ClassNK)

Material and Equipment Department, Administration Center, Head Office

Address: 4-7 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8567, Japan

Tel.: +81-3-5226-2020

Fax: +81-3-5226-2057

E-mail: eqd@classnk.or.jp

Attachment:

1. Amendments to SOLAS III/1.5 (Resolution MSC.317(89))
2. Amendments to the LSA Code IV/4.4.7.6 (Resolution MSC.320(89))
3. Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems (MSC.1/Circ.1392)
4. Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs) (MSC.1/Circ.1327)

**ANNEX 1**

**RESOLUTION MSC.317(89)  
(adopted on 20 May 2011)**

**ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR  
THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974, AS AMENDED**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING FURTHER article VIII(b) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), concerning the amendment procedure applicable to the Annex to the Convention, other than to the provisions of chapter I thereof,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its eighty-ninth session, amendments to the Convention, proposed and circulated in accordance with article VIII(b)(i) thereof,

1. ADOPTS, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the Convention, the text of which is set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. DETERMINES, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the Convention, that the said amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2012, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments;
3. INVITES SOLAS Contracting Governments to note that, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vii)(2) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2013 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article VIII(b)(v) of the Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the Annex to all Contracting Governments to the Convention;
5. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its Annex to Members of the Organization which are not Contracting Governments to the Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974, AS AMENDED**

**CHAPTER III  
LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS**

**Regulation 1 – Application**

The following new paragraph 5 is added after the existing paragraph 4:

"5 Notwithstanding paragraph 4.2, for all ships, not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, but not later than 1 July 2019, lifeboat on-load release mechanisms not complying with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the Code shall be replaced with equipment that complies with the Code.\*

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\* Refer to the Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems (MSC.1/Circ.1392)."

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## **ANNEX 4**

### **RESOLUTION MSC.320(89) (adopted on 20 May 2011)**

#### **ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCE (LSA) CODE**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

NOTING resolution MSC.48(66), by which it adopted the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (hereinafter referred to as "the LSA Code"), which has become mandatory under chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"),

NOTING ALSO article VIII(b) and regulation III/3.10 of the Convention concerning the procedure for amending the LSA Code,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its eighty-ninth session, amendments to the LSA Code, proposed and circulated in accordance with article VIII(b)(i) of the Convention,

1. ADOPTS, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the LSA Code, the text of which is set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. DETERMINES, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the Convention, that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2012, unless prior to that date, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments;
3. INVITES Contracting Governments to note that, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vii)(2) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2013 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article VIII(b)(v) of the Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the Annex to all Contracting Governments to the Convention;
5. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its Annex to Members of the Organization which are not Contracting Governments to the Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE-SAVING  
APPLIANCES (LSA) CODE**

**CHAPTER IV  
SURVIVAL CRAFT**

1 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the following new subparagraphs .2 to .6 are inserted after the existing subparagraph .1:

- "2 notwithstanding subparagraph .7.2 the mechanism shall only open when the release mechanism is operated with the boat fully waterborne or, if the boat is not waterborne, by multiple, deliberate and sustained action which shall include the removal or bypassing of safety interlocks designed to prevent premature or inadvertent release;
  - .2.1 the mechanism shall not be able to open due to wear, misalignment and unintended force within the hook assembly or operating mechanism, control rods or cables as may be connected to, or form part of the hook assembly and with trim of up to 10° and a list of up to 20° either way; and
  - .2.2 the functional criteria of 4.4.7.6.2 and 4.4.7.6.2.1 apply for the range of loads, representing 0% to 100% of the safe working load of the lifeboat release and retrieval system for which it may be approved;
- .3 unless a release mechanism is of the load over centre type, which is held fully closed by the weight of the lifeboat, the hook assembly shall be designed so that the moveable hook component is kept fully closed by the hook locking parts capable of holding its safe working load under any operational conditions until the hook locking part is deliberately caused to open by means of the operating mechanism. For designs utilizing the tail of the movable hook component and cam either directly or indirectly securing the tail of the movable hook component, the hook assembly shall continue to be closed and hold its safe working load through rotation of the cam of up to 45 degrees in either direction, or 45 degrees in one direction if restricted by design, from its locked position;
- .4 to provide hook stability, the release mechanism shall be designed so that, when it is fully reset in the closed position, the weight of the lifeboat does not cause any force to be transmitted to the operating mechanism;
- .5 locking devices shall be designed so that they can not turn to open due to forces from the hook load; and
- .6 if a hydrostatic interlock is provided, it shall automatically reset upon lifting the boat from the water."

2 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the existing subparagraph .2 is replaced by the following:

"7 the mechanism shall have two release capabilities: normal (off-load) release capability and on-load release capability:

.7.1 normal (off-load) release capability shall release the lifeboat when it is waterborne or when there is no load on the hooks, and not require manual separation of the lifting ring or shackle from the jaw of the hook; and

.7.2 on-load release capability shall release the lifeboat with a load on the hooks. This release mechanism shall be provided with a hydrostatic interlock unless other means are provided to ensure that the boat is waterborne before the release mechanism can be activated. In case of failure or when the boat is not waterborne, there shall be a means to override the hydrostatic interlock or similar device to allow emergency release. This interlock override capability shall be adequately protected against accidental or premature use. Adequate protection shall include special mechanical protection not normally required for off-load release, in addition to a danger sign. The protection shall be deliberately destroyed by applying a suitable minimum force, for instance by breaking a protection glass or translucent cover. A label or thin wire seal is not considered sufficiently robust. To prevent a premature on-load release, on-load operation of the release mechanism shall require multiple, deliberate and sustained action or actions by the operator;"

3 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the existing subparagraph .3 is renumbered as subparagraph .8 and the words "without excessive force" are replaced by the words ", and any indicators shall not indicate the release mechanism is reset".

4 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the following new subparagraph .9 is inserted after the renumbered subparagraph 8:

"9 all components of the hook unit, release handle unit, control cables or mechanical operating links and the fixed structural connections in a lifeboat shall be of material corrosion resistant in the marine environment without the need for coatings or galvanizing. Design and manufacturing tolerances shall be such that anticipated wear throughout the service life of the mechanism shall not adversely affect its proper functioning. Mechanical operating links such as control cables shall be waterproof and shall have no exposed or unprotected areas;"

5 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the existing subparagraphs .4 to .8 are renumbered as subparagraphs .10 to .14, respectively.

6 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, in the renumbered subparagraph .10, the word "clearly" is replaced by the word "unambiguously".

7 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, in the renumbered subparagraph .14, the words "the load-bearing components of the release mechanism and" are added at the beginning and the words "of the release mechanism" are deleted.

8 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the following new subparagraphs .15 and .16 are inserted after the renumbered subparagraph .14:

- " .15 a hydrostatic interlock shall be designed for a factor of safety of not less than 6 times maximum operating force based on the ultimate strength of the materials used;
- .16 the operating cables shall be designed for a factor of safety of not less than 2.5 times maximum operating force based on the ultimate strength of the materials used; and".

9 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the existing subparagraph .9 is renumbered as subparagraph .17 and in the renumbered subparagraph .17, the references to paragraphs "4.4.7.6.2.2 and 4.4.7.6.3" are replaced by the references to paragraphs "4.4.7.6.7, 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15".

10 In paragraph 4.4.7.6, the referenced subparagraph .9 is replaced by .17.

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4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

MSC.1/Circ.1392  
27 May 2011

## **GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION AND REPLACEMENT OF LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011), approved the Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems, set out in the annex, as per SOLAS regulation III/1.5, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-fifth session, and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Lifeboat Release Hooks (16 to 18 March 2011).

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed Guidelines when applying SOLAS regulation III/1.5, as adopted by resolution MSC.317(89), and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

3 Member Governments, shipowners and manufacturers of lifeboat release and retrieval systems are also strongly urged, pending the entry into force of SOLAS regulation III/1.5, to use the annexed Guidelines to evaluate existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems at the earliest available opportunity.\*

4 Member Governments are strongly urged to ensure that all ships fitted with on-load release systems for lifeboats, are equipped with fall preventer devices as per paragraph 6 of these Guidelines at the earliest available opportunity.

5 Member Governments are encouraged to consider the results of evaluations reported to the Organization by other Member Governments on types of existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems.

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\* Reference is made to MSC.1/Circ.1393 on Early application of new SOLAS regulation III/1.5.

## **ANNEX**

### **GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION AND REPLACEMENT OF LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS**

#### **General**

1 New SOLAS regulation III/1.5, which is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2013, requires that for all ships, on-load release mechanisms<sup>\*</sup> not complying with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89) (hereinafter called "the LSA Code"), be replaced or modified not later than the next scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, but not later than 1 July 2019.

2 Considering that paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code represent important safety improvements, manufacturers should carry out a self assessment of their types of existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems in accordance with these Guidelines at the earliest available opportunity.

3 An Administration, or a recognized organization acting on its behalf, should carry out a design review to check that the type of existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems comply with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code and should witness the performance test to check that it is performed in accordance with appendix 1 of these Guidelines. This evaluation should be completed not later than 1 July 2013 and the report should be submitted in accordance with paragraph 14 below.

4 Administrations, or recognized organizations acting on their behalf, should, when applying SOLAS regulation III/1.5, ensure that an evaluation of the type of existing lifeboat release and retrieval system is undertaken, for compliance with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code, in accordance with these Guidelines.

5 A flowchart of the lifeboat release and retrieval system evaluation process, is set out in appendix 2.

6 On each ship, fall preventer devices in accordance with the Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs) (MSC.1/Circ.1327) should be employed for each existing lifeboat release and retrieval system until the system is:

- .1 found compliant with the LSA Code; or
- .2 modified and found compliant with the LSA Code; or
- .3 found compliant with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code and paragraphs 16 and 17 (overhaul examination) of these Guidelines; or
- .4 modified and found compliant with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code and paragraphs 16 and 17 (overhaul examination) of these Guidelines; or
- .5 replaced by a new lifeboat release and retrieval system.

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\* For the purpose of these Guidelines, the expression "on-load release mechanism" has been replaced by "lifeboat release and retrieval system" (see paragraph 9.1).

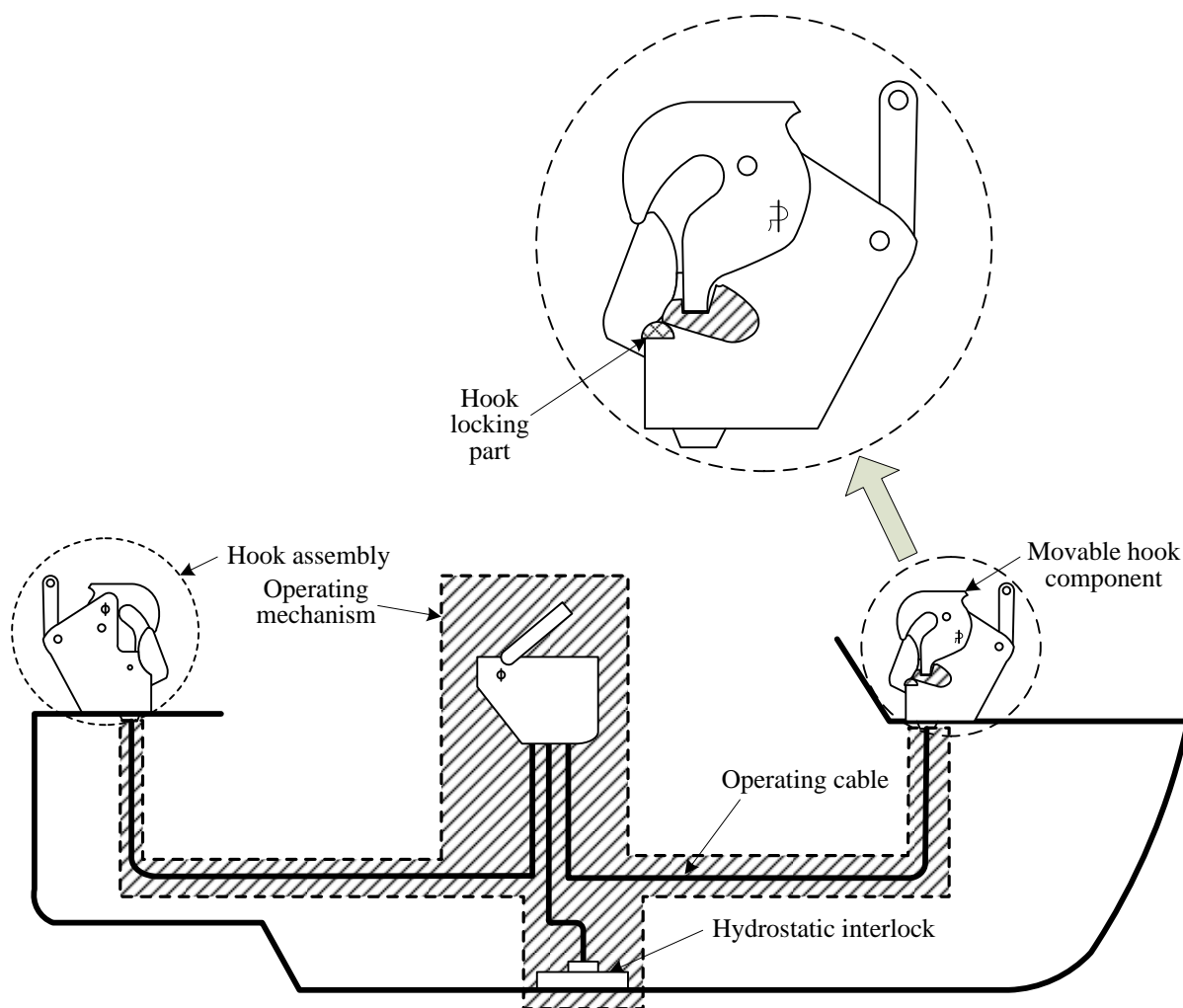
## Modifications

7 A lifeboat release and retrieval system that has been determined to be non-compliant in accordance with these Guidelines may be modified to comply with the requirements of the revised paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code and the requirements of the existing applicable Code, provided that the modified release and retrieval system is evaluated in accordance with these Guidelines.

8 A type of lifeboat release and retrieval system that, after modification, complies with the requirements of the revised paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code and the requirements of the existing applicable Code should be identified as a system compliant after modification and reported as such. The report should include both the identification of the original type and the modified type.

## Definitions

9 For the purpose of these Guidelines, the definitions given hereunder should apply, in accordance with the following figure.



**Lifeboat release and retrieval system**

9.1 *Lifeboat release and retrieval system* is the means by which the lifeboat is connected to, and released from, the lifeboat falls for lowering, launch and retrieval. It comprises the hook assembly and operating mechanism.

9.2 *Hook assembly* is the mechanism, attached to the lifeboat, which connects the lifeboat to the lifeboat falls.

9.3 *Movable hook component* is that part of the hook assembly in direct contact with the connection with the lifeboat falls which moves to enable release from the falls.

9.4 *Hook locking part* is the component(s) within a hook assembly which holds the movable hook component in the closed position until activated by the operating mechanism to release the hook. This activation may be performed through other components within the hook assembly.

9.5 *Operating mechanism* is the means by which the operator activates the opening, or release, of the movable hook component. It includes the operating handle, linkages/cables and hydrostatic interlock, if fitted.

9.6 *Type*, in relation to the design of a lifeboat release and retrieval system, means an identical lifeboat release and retrieval system of given safe working load, make and model (thus any change to the materials of construction, design arrangement or dimensions constitutes a change of type).

9.7 *On-load release* is the action of opening the lifeboat release and retrieval system whilst there is load on the hook assemblies.

9.8 *Evaluation* is a design review and a performance test of a type of lifeboat release and retrieval system.

9.9 *Manufacturer*, with respect to existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems, is:

- .1 the original equipment manufacturer; or
- .2 a manufacturer of lifeboat release and retrieval systems who has taken on the responsibility for a range or type of lifeboat release and retrieval system; or
- .3 any other person or entity which has taken responsibility for a range or type of lifeboat release and retrieval system when the original manufacturer no longer exists or supports the equipment.

9.10 *Modifications* are changes to the design of an approved lifeboat release and retrieval system which may affect compliance with the original approval requirements or the prescribed conditions for the use of the product.

9.11 *New lifeboat release and retrieval system* is a lifeboat release and retrieval system that has been approved in accordance with paragraph 4.4.7.6 of chapter IV of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89).

9.12 *Existing lifeboat release and retrieval system* is a lifeboat release and retrieval system that has not been approved in accordance with paragraph 4.4.7.6 of chapter IV of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89).

9.13 *Company* means company as defined in SOLAS regulation IX/1.2.

### **Design review**

10 Documentation and information for each type of lifeboat release and retrieval system should be submitted to the Administration, or recognized organization acting on its behalf, in order that an assessment can be carried out to determine compliance with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code. The manufacturer should submit the approval certificate, along with all associated supporting design calculations, plans and testing documentation to the Administration or recognized organization acting on its behalf. The design information should include the specification and the installation instructions for the complete operating system as well as all safety instructions regarding the operating system and any interlocks provided. Any submission for testing of a lifeboat release and retrieval system that cannot be supported with the above-mentioned information should not be eligible for testing against the requirements of the LSA Code.

11 If the outcome of the design review is non-compliance with the applicable paragraphs of the LSA Code, the lifeboat release and retrieval system should be replaced or modified to be made compliant.

### **Performance test**

12 After a successful completion of the design review, a performance test should be conducted by the manufacturer for each type of lifeboat release and retrieval systems for compliance with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code, using the test specified in appendix 1 to these Guidelines. The performance test should be witnessed by the Administration or a recognized organization acting on its behalf.

13 Should any part of the lifeboat release and retrieval system fail at any stage during the test specified in paragraphs 1 to 4 of appendix 1, this type of lifeboat release and retrieval system should be deemed to be non-compliant and reported as such.

### **Reporting of the results of evaluation of existing lifeboat release and retrieval system**

14 The Administration should report the results of each type of existing lifeboat release and retrieval system evaluation carried out in accordance with these Guidelines to the Organization, based on the reporting procedure, as set out in appendix 3.

15 Depending on the outcome of the evaluation, every lifeboat release and retrieval system should be categorized as being either compliant, compliant after modification or non-compliant. Thereafter:

- .1 systems categorized as being compliant, or compliant after modification, may remain in service; and
- .2 every system categorized as being non-compliant should be replaced with a new system or modified to be made compliant.

### **One-time follow-up overhaul examination**

16 Not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, every lifeboat release and retrieval system of a type found to be compliant in respect of the existing lifeboat release and retrieval system evaluation should be subject to an overhaul examination according to annex 1 to the Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1) by the manufacturer or by one of their representatives. The examination also includes verification that

the system examined is of the same type as the system that passed the evaluation and is suitable for the ship.

17 The scope of the overhaul examination should also include a detailed assessment of the condition of the components of the lifeboat release and retrieval system to observe the extent of wear, corrosion, erosion and other types of material degradation that may have occurred. Upon satisfactory completion of the overhaul examination, the manufacturer or one of their representatives should issue a factual statement to confirm this, for retention on board.

### **Procedure for replacement of non-compliant lifeboat release and retrieval systems**

18 The procedure outlined below should be followed in all cases where a lifeboat is to be fitted with replacement lifeboat release and retrieval systems with on-load release capability. It is noted that every lifeboat, complete with lifeboat release and retrieval system, is type-approved at manufacture and it is important to recognize that a lifeboat which is retro-fitted with a replacement lifeboat release and retrieval system to the satisfaction of the Administration should be regarded as offering a level of safety which is higher than that of the original installation.

19 Companies should, where possible, select replacement equipment acceptable to the lifeboat manufacturer. However, in cases where the lifeboat manufacturer is unable to offer a suitable replacement lifeboat release and retrieval system, the Company may select an alternative lifeboat release and retrieval system, with the agreement, if possible, of the lifeboat manufacturer.

20 The replacement equipment should be approved by the Administration or a recognized organization acting on its behalf, under the provisions of the LSA Code. Prior to the installation commencing, the Company should submit to the Administration, or a recognized organization acting on its behalf, for review and approval, as a minimum the following information:

- .1 the proposed replacement equipment including approval certification;
- .2 the engineering analysis of the replacement installation including:
  - .1 drawings of the original lifeboat release and retrieval system arrangement;
  - .2 detailed drawings showing clearly the proposed changes (e.g., position of suspension, lifeboat release and retrieval system, fixed structural connections of the release mechanism, link plates, including materials used for nuts and bolts with regard to strength and corrosion resistance); and
  - .3 if the drawings show that forces and/or force couples will change and/or the lifeboat release and retrieval system fixed structural connections of the release mechanism will change, calculation of static forces including a safety factor of 6, according to the LSA Code, from lifeboat release and retrieval system into lifeboat structure, including tension and shear forces in bolts, link plates, welds and keel shoe(s);
- .3 considering that a lifeboat release and retrieval system does not consist just of the hook assemblies themselves, but also of release handles, cabling, etc., in the lifeboat, the evaluation of a replacement hook assembly other than that originally provided in the lifeboat should include such factors as loadings of the release handle on the console, efficiency of any hydrostatic interlock in light and

loaded conditions, whether the size/configuration of the replacement equipment would affect the stability or seating space of the lifeboat, and its compatibility with its launching appliance;

- .4 amended operating and training manuals; and
- .5 identification of the person(s) responsible for design appraisal, installation work and post-installation testing and evidence of their competence.

21 The Administration, or a recognized organization acting on its behalf, may allow that hook fixed structural connections of the release mechanism and supporting structure which are not made of material corrosion resistant in the marine environment, as required by paragraph 4.4.7.6.9 of the LSA Code, need not be replaced if they are in a good condition and installed in a sheltered position inside the lifeboat.

22 A copy of the engineering drawing(s) approved by the Administration, or by the recognized organization acting on its behalf, should be used during installation and testing and retained on board.

23 The installation should be carried out by the manufacturer or by one of their representatives. All work carried out should be witnessed by the Administration, or by a recognized organization acting on its behalf. Valid operating and safety instructions should be posted at the operating position and adjacent to the lifeboat release and retrieval system(s).

24 Post-installation testing should be carried out by the manufacturer or by one of their representatives and comprise the following:

- .1 1.1 x load and simultaneous release test according to the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), part 2, paragraph 5.3.1, or an equivalent method acceptable to the Administration;
- .2 load test according to the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), part 2, paragraph 5.3.4, as amended by resolution MSC.226(82), if the fixed structural connections of the release mechanism of the lifeboat is modified; and
- .3 if the lifeboat is also a rescue boat and/or is installed on a cargo ship of 20,000 gross tonnage or above, the 5 knots installation test should be carried out, in accordance with the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), part 2, paragraph 5.4.

25 All tests should be witnessed by the Administration, or by a recognized organization acting on its behalf, which should also verify that the installation complies in all respects with the documentation submitted by the Company and approved by the Administration, or a recognized organization acting on its behalf.

26 Following completion of installation testing, the Administration, or a recognized organization acting on its behalf, should issue a Statement of Acceptance, using the template set out in appendix 4, to the Company, for retention on board.

## APPENDIX 1

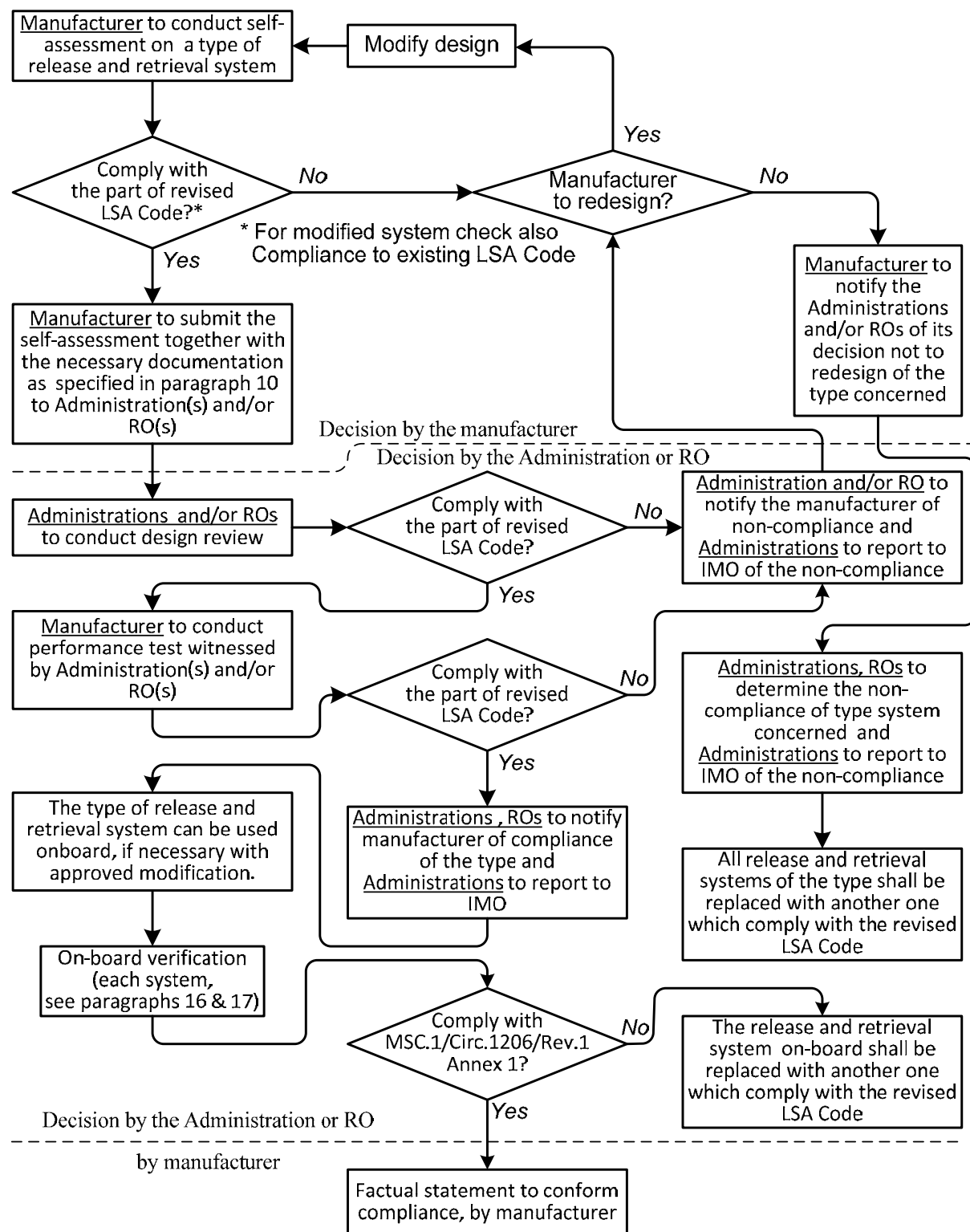
### TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EVALUATION OF LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS

A release and retrieval system should be conditioned and tested as follows:

- .1 the lifeboat release and retrieval system and the longest used connection cable/linkage associated with the system should be mounted and adjusted according to instructions from the original equipment manufacturer and then loaded to 100% of its safe working load and released. Load and release should be repeated 50 times. During the 50 releases, the lifeboat release and retrieval system should be released simultaneously from each fall to which it is connected without any binding or damage to any part of the lifeboat release and retrieval system. The system should be considered as "failed" if any failure during the conditioning or unintended release occurs when load is applied but the system has not yet been operated;
- .2 the lifeboat release and retrieval system should then be disassembled, the parts examined and wear recorded. The release and retrieval system should then be reassembled;
- .3 the hook assembly, whilst disconnected from the operating mechanism, should then be tested 10 times with cyclic loading from zero load to 1.1 times the safe working load, at a nominal 10 seconds per cycle; unless the release and retrieval system has been specifically designed to operate as an off-load hook with on-load capability using the weight of the boat to close the hook, in this case the cyclic load should be from no more than 1% to 1.1 times the SWL; and
- .4 the cable and operating mechanism should then be reconnected to the hook assembly; and the lifeboat release and retrieval system should then be demonstrated to operate satisfactorily under its safe working load. The actuation force should be no less than 100 N and no more than 300 N, if a cable is used it should be the maximum length specified by the manufacturer, and secures in the same manner it would be secured in the lifeboat. The demonstration should verify that any interlocks, including hydrostatic interlocks, where fitted, indicators and handles are still functioning and are correctly positioned in accordance with the operation and safety instruction from the original equipment manufacturer. The release and retrieval system is deemed to have passed the testing under this appendix when the tests have been conducted successfully. The system should be considered as "failed" if any failure during this test or any unintended release or opening occurs.



## APPENDIX 2

EXISTING LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM  
EVALUATION PROCESS FLOW CHART

### APPENDIX 3

#### INFORMATION ON THE EVALUATION OF EXISTING LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS TO BE REPORTED

The following information should be provided for each lifeboat release and retrieval system:

Manufacturer's Details	<b>Name</b>
	<b>Address</b>
	<b>E-mail address</b>
Lifeboat release and retrieval system	<b>Type (see paragraph 9.6) and identification</b>
In case of modification	<b>Original type and identification</b>
	<b>Details of modification</b>
Specification of type (e.g., Maximum Safe Working Load (SWL))	
Details of the Administration, or recognized organization acting on its behalf, undertaking the evaluation of the lifeboat release and retrieval system	<b>Name</b>
	<b>Address</b>
	<b>E-mail address</b>
Evaluation report details	<b>No.</b>
	<b>Date</b>
Evaluation result	<b>Compliant / Non-compliant / Compliant after modification</b>
Report information	<b>Link to the relevant report (url)</b>
Reported by	<b>Name of the Administration</b>

#### APPENDIX 4

### STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM TO AN EXISTING LIFEBOAT

*Issued in accordance with the provisions of regulation I/5 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended, under the authority of [Administration]\**

Name of ship:  
Port of registry:  
IMO Number:

Lifeboat details:

Replacement release and retrieval system details:

Lifeboat identity	Lifeboat serial number	Release and retrieval system serial number (fwd)	Release and retrieval system serial number (aft)
No.1 (Stbd)			
No.2 (Port)			

The above release and retrieval system has been installed and tested under the supervision of the [Administration or a recognized organization authorized to act on its behalf]\*, as documented in Survey report no...; certificate no.... dated ... and [installation] drawing(s) no(s) ... dated ... .

This statement is to confirm that:

- .1 The replacement release and retrieval system meets the relevant requirements of the LSA Code, chapter IV, section 4.4.7.6.
- .2 The replacement release and retrieval system construction and the equipment of the above-mentioned ship was found to comply with the provisions of SOLAS regulation III/4 when tested in accordance with the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), part 2, section 5.3.1. [The test required by paragraph 5.3.4 is waived as impracticable for this replacement procedure.]
- .3 The validity of the relevant Safety Certificate is not affected by the installation of the replacement release and retrieval system.
- .4 The installation of the replacement release and retrieval system offers a level of safety which is at least as effective as the original manufacturer's equipment.

The [Administration, or a recognized organization authorized to act on its behalf]\* certifies that this Statement of Acceptance augments and supersedes the affected sections of the original lifeboat approval certification. The statement must be kept on board the ship with all other relevant documentation at all times.

.....  
(Date)

.....

(Stamp)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\* Insert as appropriate.

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION**

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR

Telephone: 020 7735 7611

Fax: 020 7587 3210



**IMO**

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Ref. T4/3.01

MSC.1/Circ.1327

11 June 2009

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE FITTING AND USE OF FALL PREVENTER DEVICES (FPDs)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009), approved the Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs), set out in the annex, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-second session.

2 The use of FPDs should be considered as an interim risk mitigation measure, only to be used in connection with existing on-load release hooks, at the discretion of the master, pending the wide implementation of improved hook designs with enhanced safety features.

3 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed Guidelines when approving the use of fall preventer devices (FPDs), and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

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## ANNEX

### GUIDELINES FOR THE FITTING AND USE OF FALL PREVENTER DEVICES (FPDs)

#### 1 Background

1.1 In 1986, on-load release hooks for lifeboats and rescue boats were made mandatory in the SOLAS Convention, in response to Norway's worst offshore accident in March 1980, when the **Alexander Kielland** platform in the North Sea Ekofisk field capsized, killing 123 of the 212 persons on board. These then new SOLAS requirements were considered an important step forward in lifeboat design.

1.2 Some deaths in that accident were attributed to the fact that the lifeboat had no means of release when its weight was on the hook and falls. Therefore, on-load release systems were seen to offer benefits.

1.3 Since the IMO requirements for all ships to be fitted with on-load release systems came into force, there have been a number of serious accidents during drills and servicing.

1.4 Many of these accidents were attributed to either lack of maintenance, poor design or inadequate training. Failures of equipment can result in the premature opening of the on-load hook mechanism, causing the lifeboat to fall from the davits unexpectedly, even with three safety interlocks provided for in the design.

1.5 A number of current designs of on-load release hooks are designed to open under the effect of the lifeboat's own weight and often need to be held closed by the operating mechanism. This means that any defects or faults in the operating mechanism, errors by the crew or incorrect resetting of the hook after being previously operated, can result in premature release.

1.6 A "Fall Preventer Device" (FPD) can be used to minimize the risk of injury or death by providing a secondary alternate load path in the event of failure of the on-load hook or its release mechanism or of accidental release of the on-load hook. However, FPDs should not be regarded as a substitute for a safe on-load release mechanism.

#### 2 Design and operation of FPDs

##### 2.1 *Locking pins*

The following points should be considered when utilizing locking pins as FPDs:

- .1 existing on-load release hooks fitted to ships should **not** be modified by drilling to provide a locking pin insertion point, unless approved by the Administration in accordance with paragraph 4, as this may significantly reduce the strength of the hook;
- .2 locking pins should have clear operational instructions located near the insertion point of the locking pin and be colour coded so that it is clear where the pins are to be inserted;

- .3 locking pins should be designed so that they cannot be inadvertently inserted in the wrong place;
- .4 locking pins should be confirmed to be in place prior to turning out the lifeboat and during descent to the water;
- .5 strict procedures, including a warning notice at the release handle, should be in place to ensure that the locking pin is removed before the release mechanism is activated. The handle of the locking pin should be coloured red or a suitable contrasting safety colour and prominently marked with a warning that it must be removed before activating the release mechanism;
- .6 the removal of the pin should be achievable quickly and easily without posing any risk to the operating crew designated to carry out the task once the lifeboat has reached the water;
- .7 if the removal of the pins requires opening of the lifeboat hatch it should be readily achievable by the operating crew at each device from within the craft;
- .8 once the on-load release hooks have been connected to recover the lifeboat, the locking pins should be re-inserted before the boat is hoisted clear of the water. The locking pins should be designed so that they do not interfere with either the lifting or re-stowing of the lifeboat into the davits; and
- .9 where provided, fall preventer locking pins should not be used for any other purpose and should be fitted to the lifeboat at all times.

## **2.2 *Strops or slings***

Wires or chains should not be used as FPDs, as they do not absorb shock loads. The following points should be considered when synthetic strops or slings are used as FPDs:

- .1 where FPDs are synthetic strops or slings and no modifications are required to the lifeboat, the on-load release hook or launching equipment, a functional test should be carried out. The functional test should demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Administration, that the equipment performs without interfering in the operation of the lifeboat or launching equipment. Strops or slings should be of resilient fibre in construction;
- .2 the strops or slings should be issued with an appropriate certificate documenting a tensile strength which provides for a factor of safety of at least six, based on the total weight of the lifeboat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment. The strops or slings should be inspected before use and thoroughly inspected by ship's crew every six months. The material of the strop or sling should be rot-proof, corrosion-resistant, not be unduly affected by seawater, oil or fungal attack, and UV resistant. The strops or slings should be permanently marked with the date of entry into service;

- .3 strict procedures, including a warning notice at the release handle, should be in place to ensure that the strops or slings are removed before the release mechanism is activated;
- .4 the attachment point of the strop or sling to the on-load release hook and the davit falls block should be clearly marked and designed so that any connection device such as shackles cannot be connected to either the wrong part of the block or the wrong part of the on-load release hook;
- .5 the release of the strops or slings should be achievable quickly and easily without posing any risk to the operating crew designated to carry out the task once the lifeboat has reached the water. If the release of the strops or slings requires opening of the lifeboat hatch it should be readily achievable by the operating crew at each device from within the craft. Once detached, the strops or slings should not interfere with the operation of the on-load release gear or the propeller;
- .6 once the on-load release hooks have been connected to recover the lifeboat, the strops or slings should be reattached to the lifeboat before the boat is hoisted clear of the water. The strops or slings should be designed so that they do not interfere with either the lifting or re-stowing of the lifeboat into the davits;
- .7 a strop or sling used as an FPD should be sized and arranged to allow the transfer of load from the hook mechanism to the strop with minimal movement (drop) of the boat in the event of a release mechanism failure. Should a fall preventer strop or sling be subject to an unintentional dynamic shock loading, then the strop or sling should be replaced and the associated attachment points inspected. In such cases, the Administration should be informed as soon as possible and the master should provide a full report of the circumstances of the incident; and
- .8 where provided, fall preventer strops or slings should not be used for any other purpose and should be fitted to the lifeboat at all times.

### **3 Drills, testing, inspections and maintenance of lifeboats and launching appliances**

3.1 The ship's master or the officer in charge of any lifeboat lowering or lifting operation should ensure that, where provided, lifeboat FPDs are properly in place before commencing any drill, testing, inspection or maintenance where persons are in the lifeboat.

3.2 The ship's operating crew should be familiar with the operation of the FPD fitted to the lifeboat on their ship. The procedure to be followed should be contained in the ISM Code documentation and the ship's training manual.

3.3 Those conducting training drills and drafting ISM Code procedures should take into account that with certain types of ship such as oil, gas or chemical tankers it may not be possible to use an FPD in an abandon ship situation where the release mechanism of the device is not inside the lifeboat. In such cases, the master should take this into account when considering application of paragraphs 2.1.9 or 2.2.8. Where a different procedure is followed during routine drills compared with an abandon ship situation, this should be clearly described in the ISM Code documentation and training manual.

#### **4        Modification of existing approved on-load hooks already fitted to a ship to incorporate FPDs**

The shipowner or original equipment manufacturer should contact the Administration for approval before any modification, such as modifying existing lifeboats and hooks for oil and chemical tankers so that FPDs can be released from within the lifeboat, is made to a hook, lifeboat or davit to accommodate the use of FPDs. Any retesting of any equipment should be agreed and witnessed by the Administration or a recognized organization appointed by them and documented in the relevant approval file.

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