



# ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 012- Rev. 5

### PERIODIC SERVICING OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR

#### SOLAS 74 AS AMENDED, CHAPTER III, REGULATION 20

**TO:** SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS, MASTERS, FLAG STATE SURVEYORS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

**APPLICABLE TO:** All ships subject to SOLAS 74 as amended

**EFFECTIVE AS FROM:** Date of this circular

16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009) approved amendments to MSC.1/Circ. 1206 concerning inspection and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment at its fifty-second session. MSC.1/Circ. 1206 Rev.1 was issued on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s) should be conducted under the direct supervision of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s).

Thorough examination, operational testing, repairs, overhaul of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear are carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 by service providers that are qualified in these operations for each make and type of equipment.

Service providers carrying out thorough examination, operational testing, repairs, overhaul of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear should be authorized in accordance with **MSC.1/Circ.1277 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.**

The SOLAS amendments and associated MSC Resolution (MSC .402(96)) include explicit mandatory text clarifying the requirements for the qualification, authorisation and certification of service suppliers, procedures for maintenance as well as testing, and what should be carried out at each stage of testing (weekly, monthly, annually, and 5-yearly).

As of **1<sup>st</sup> January 2020** the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear should be carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 by service providers **authorized in accordance with section 7 of MSC.402(96).**

Accordingly, this Administration accepts service providers authorized, checked or inspected by Recognized Organizations\* or by other SOLAS Contracting Governments.

**This Administration delegates the ship's Classification Society to check whether the service providers are authorized, checked or inspected by Recognized Organizations\* or by other SOLAS Contracting Governments.**

The statement confirming that the lifeboat arrangements remain fit for the purpose issued by the service provider who performed the work should be provided to the ship's Classification Society

Shipowners, Ships' Operators and Managers, are recommended to consult their Recognized Organizations and to prepare for the new requirements by establishing an overview of authorized service providers in relevant areas prior to the requirement entering into force on 1 January 2020.

\*Recognized by St Vincent and the Grenadines Maritime Administration

Annex: MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, MSC.402(96) and MSC.404(96)



Ref. T4/3.01

MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1  
11 June 2009

## MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-first session (10 to 19 May 2006), recalled that at its seventy-fifth session (15 to 24 May 2002), it had considered the issue of the unacceptably high number of accidents with lifeboats in which crew were being injured, sometimes fatally, while participating in lifeboat drills and/or inspections, and noted that most accidents fell under the following categories:

- .1 failure of on-load release mechanism;
- .2 inadvertent operation of on-load release mechanism;
- .3 inadequate maintenance of lifeboats, davits and launching equipment;
- .4 communication failures;
- .5 lack of familiarity with lifeboats, davits, equipment and associated controls;
- .6 unsafe practices during lifeboat drills and inspections; and
- .7 design faults other than on-load release mechanisms.

2 Pending further consideration of the problem, the Committee approved MSC/Circ.1049 on Accidents with lifeboats, to draw the attention of manufacturers, shipowners, crews and classification societies to the personal injury and loss of life that may follow inadequate attention to the design, construction, maintenance and operation of lifeboats, davits and associated equipment and urged all concerned to take necessary action to prevent further accidents with lifeboats. It invited Member Governments to:

- .1 bring the circular to the attention of their maritime Administrations, relevant industry organizations, manufacturers, shipowners, crews and classification societies;
- .2 take the necessary action to prevent further accidents with lifeboats pending the development of appropriate IMO guidance;
- .3 ensure that:
  - .3.1 on-load release equipment used on ships flying their flag is in full compliance with the requirements of paragraphs 4.4.7.6.2.2 to 4.4.7.6.5 of the LSA Code;
  - .3.2 all appropriate documentation for the maintenance and adjustment of lifeboats, launching appliances and associated equipment is available on board;

- .3.3 personnel undertaking inspections, maintenance and adjustment of lifeboats, launching appliances and associated equipment are fully trained and familiar with these duties;
  - .3.4 maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and associated equipment is carried out in accordance with approved established procedures;
  - .3.5 lifeboat drills are conducted in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3 for the purpose of ensuring that ship's personnel will be able to safely embark and launch the lifeboats in an emergency;
  - .3.6 the principles of safety and health at work apply to drills as well;
  - .3.7 personnel undertaking maintenance and repair activities are appropriately qualified;
  - .3.8 hanging-off pennants should only be used for maintenance purposes and not during training exercises;
  - .3.9 all tests required for the design and approval of life-saving appliances are conducted rigorously, according to the Guidelines developed by the Organization, in order to identify and rectify any design faults at an early stage;
  - .3.10 the equipment is easily accessible for inspections and maintenance and is proven durable in harsh operational conditions, in addition to withstanding prototype tests; and
  - .3.11 the approving authorities or bodies pay close attention to proper workmanship and state-of-the-art possibilities when assessing equipment for approval; and
- .4 encourage shipowners, when undertaking maintenance and repair activities, to employ qualified personnel, preferably certified by the manufacturer.

3 Member Governments were further invited, while enforcing the provisions of SOLAS regulation IX/4.3, to ensure that the above issues are addressed through the Safety Management System of the company, as appropriate.

4 The Committee further recalled that, at its seventy-seventh session (28 May to 6 June 2003), recognizing the experience gained since the approval of the Guidelines on inspection and maintenance of lifeboat on-load release gear (MSC/Circ.614) at its sixty-second session (24 to 28 May 1993), and that the implementation of expanded and improved guidelines could contribute towards a reduction of the incidence of accidents with lifeboats, it had approved the Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear (MSC/Circ.1093), superseding MSC/Circ.614. Taking into account subsequent amendments to SOLAS chapter III and the LSA Code, and having considered proposals by the fiftieth session of the Sub-Committee on Fire Protection, the Committee approved amendments to the Guidelines, and further noted that the guidance developed for lifeboats could also apply to the periodic servicing and maintenance of liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats and their launching appliances and on-load release gear.

5 The Committee further recalled that, at its seventy-ninth session (1 to 10 December 2004), it had endorsed the intention of the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, in cooperation with the Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping, to develop further IMO guidance as envisioned in MSC/Circ.1049 and, accordingly, approved the Guidance on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats (MSC/Circ.1136), as set out in annex 2. The Committee further recalled that the Guidance developed for lifeboats has relevance, in general, for emergency drills with other life-saving systems and should be taken into account when such drills are conducted. In connection with MSC/Circ.1136, and recognizing the need to provide a basic outline of essential steps to safely carry out simulated launching of free-fall lifeboats in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.4, and having considered proposals by the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Committee on Design and Equipment, the Committee further approved the Guidelines for simulated launching of free-fall lifeboats (MSC/Circ.1137), as set out in the appendix to annex 2.

6 Having considered the need to update several of the circulars discussed above, and having considered proposals by the fiftieth session of the Sub-Committee on Fire Protection to consolidate the numerous circulars on the subject of measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats in order to better serve the mariner, the Committee approved Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear and Guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats, as set out in annexes 1 and 2, respectively, to MSC.1/Circ.1206.

7 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009), approved amendments to the aforementioned Guidelines (annexes 1 and 2 to MSC.1/Circ.1206) concerning inspection and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-second session. The revised Guidelines are set out in annexes 1 and 2 to this circular.

8 Member Governments are invited to give effect to the annexed Guidelines as soon as possible and to bring them to the attention of shipowners, ship operators, ship-vetting organizations, ship personnel, surveyors, manufacturers and all others concerned with the inspection and maintenance of lifeboats, liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats and their launching appliances and on-load release gear.

9 This circular supersedes MSC/Circ.1049, MSC/Circ.1093, MSC/Circ.1136, MSC/Circ.1137 and MSC.1/Circ.1206.

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## ANNEX 1

### **GUIDELINES FOR PERIODIC SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE OF LIFEBOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND ON-LOAD RELEASE GEAR**

#### **General**

1 The objective of these Guidelines is to establish a uniform, safe and documented performance of periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear.

2 These Guidelines relate to the application of the ISM Code to periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboat arrangements and should therefore be reflected in procedures developed for a ship under that Code.

3 The general principle in these Guidelines may also be applied for the periodic servicing and maintenance of liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats and their launching appliances and release gear.

4 Detailed guidance regarding some procedures covered by these Guidelines is provided in the appendix.

#### **SOLAS regulations**

5 These Guidelines relate to the requirements contained in:

- .1 SOLAS regulation III/20 – Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections; and
- .2 SOLAS regulation III/36 – Instructions for onboard maintenance.

#### **Responsibility**

6 The company\* is responsible for servicing and maintenance on board its ships in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 and for the establishment and implementation of health, safety and environment (HSE) procedures covering all activities during servicing and maintenance.

7 The personnel carrying out servicing and maintenance are responsible for the performance of the work as authorized in accordance with the system specified in paragraph 10.

8 The above personnel are also responsible for complying with HSE instructions and procedures.

9 Service providers carrying out the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear should be authorized in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277.

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\* For the purpose of these Guidelines, company is as defined in SOLAS regulation IX/1.2.

### **Certification**

10 Where these Guidelines call for certification of servicing personnel, such certification should be issued in accordance with an established system for training and authorization in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277.

### **Qualification levels**

11 Weekly and monthly inspections, and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s), should be conducted under the direct supervision of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s).

12 All other inspections, servicing and repair should be conducted by the manufacturer's representative or other person appropriately trained and certified for the work to be done in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277.

### **Reports and records**

13 All reports and checklists should be correctly filled out and signed by the person who carries out the inspection and maintenance work and should also be signed by the company's representative or the ship's master.

14 Records of inspections, servicing, repairs and maintenance should be updated and filed on board the ship.

15 When repairs, thorough examinations and annual servicing are completed, a statement confirming that the lifeboat arrangements remain fit for purpose should be promptly issued by the service provider who performed the work.

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## **APPENDIX**

### **SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING**

#### **1 GENERAL**

1.1 Any inspection, servicing and repair should be carried out according to the maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation developed by the manufacturer or an alternative body authorized in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277.

1.2 A full set of maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation as specified in 1.1 should be available on board for use in all operations involved in the inspection, maintenance, adjustment and re-setting of the lifeboat and associated equipment, such as davits and release gear.

1.3 The maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation as specified in 1.1 should include the following items as a minimum and should be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

#### **2 ANNUAL THOROUGH EXAMINATION**

2.1 As items listed in checklists for the weekly/monthly inspections also form the first part of the annual thorough examination, when carrying out this examination the inspection of these items should be performed by the ship's crew in the presence of the manufacturer's representative or other person appropriately trained and certified for the work to be done in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277.

2.2 Inspection and maintenance records of inspections and routine maintenance carried out by the ship's crew and the applicable certificates for the launching appliances and equipment should be available.

#### **Lifeboats**

2.3 The following items should be examined and checked for satisfactory condition and operation:

- .1 condition of lifeboat structure including fixed and loose equipment;
- .2 engine and propulsion system;
- .3 sprinkler system, where fitted;
- .4 air supply system, where fitted;
- .5 manoeuvring system;
- .6 power supply system; and
- .7 bailing system.

## **Release gear**

2.4 The following should be examined for satisfactory condition and operation after the annual winch brake test with the empty boat, as required by 3.1:

- .1 operation of devices for activation of release gear;
- .2 excessive free play (tolerances);
- .3 hydrostatic interlock system, where fitted;
- .4 cables for control and release; and
- .5 hook fastening.

### **Notes:**

- 1 The setting and maintenance of release gear are critical operations with regard to maintaining the safe operation of the lifeboat and the safety of personnel in the lifeboat. All inspection and maintenance operations on this equipment should therefore be carried out with the utmost care.
- 2 No maintenance or adjustment of the release gear should be undertaken while the hooks are under load.
- 3 Hanging-off pennants may be used for this purpose but should not remain connected at other times, such as when the lifeboat is normally stowed and during training exercises.
- 4 The release gear is to be examined prior to its operational test. The release gear is to be re-examined after its operational test and the dynamic winch brake test. Special consideration should be given to ensure that no damage has occurred during the winch brake test, especially the hook fastening.

2.5 Operational test of on-load release function:

- .1 position the lifeboat partially into the water such that the mass of the boat is substantially supported by the falls and the hydrostatic interlock system, where fitted, is not triggered;
- .2 operate the on-load release gear;
- .3 reset the on-load release gear; and
- .4 examine the release gear and hook fastening to ensure that the hook is completely reset and no damage has occurred.

2.6 Operational test of off-load release function:

- .1 position the lifeboat fully waterborne;
- .2 operate the off-load release gear;
- .3 reset the on-load release gear; and
- .4 recover the lifeboat to the stowed position and prepare for operational readiness.

**Note:**

Prior to hoisting, check that the release gear is completely and properly reset. The final turning-in of the lifeboat should be done without any persons on board.

2.7 Operational test of free-fall lifeboat release function:

- .1 engage the simulated launching arrangements as specified in the manufacturer's operating instructions;
- .2 the operator should be properly seated and secured in the seat location from which the release mechanism is to be operated;
- .3 operate the release mechanism to release the lifeboat;
- .4 reset the lifeboat in the stowed configuration;
- .5 repeat procedures referred to in .2 to .4 above, using the back-up release mechanism, when applicable;
- .6 remove the simulated launching arrangements; and
- .7 verify that the lifeboat is in the ready to launch stowed configuration.

**Davit**

2.8 The following items should be examined for satisfactory condition and operation:

- .1 davit structure, in particular with regard to corrosion, misalignments, deformations and excessive free play;
- .2 wires and sheaves, possible damages such as kinks and corrosion;
- .3 lubrication of wires, sheaves and moving parts;
- .4 functioning of limit switches;
- .5 stored power systems; and
- .6 hydraulic systems.

## **Winch**

2.9 The following items should be examined for satisfactory condition and operation:

- .1 open and inspect brake mechanism;
- .2 replace brake pads, if necessary;
- .3 remote control system;
- .4 power supply system; and
- .5 winch foundation.

### **3 DYNAMIC WINCH BRAKE TEST**

3.1 Annual operational testing should preferably be done by lowering the empty boat. When the boat has reached its maximum lowering speed and before the boat enters the water, the brake should be abruptly applied.

3.2 The five-year operational test should be done by lowering the boat loaded to a proof load equal to 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment, or equivalent load. When the boat has reached its maximum lowering speed and before the boat enters the water, the brake should be abruptly applied.

3.3 Following these tests, the brake pads and stressed structural parts should be re-inspected.

#### **Note:**

In loading the boat for this test, precautions should be taken to ensure that the stability of the boat is not adversely affected by free surface effects or the raising of the centre of gravity.

### **4 OVERHAUL OF ON-LOAD RELEASE GEAR**

Overhaul of on-load release gear includes:

- .1 dismantling of hook release units;
- .2 examination with regard to tolerances and design requirements;
- .3 adjustment of release gear system after assembly;
- .4 operational test as per above and with a load according to SOLAS regulation III/20.11.2.3;  
and
- .5 examination of vital parts with regard to defects and cracks.

#### **Note:**

Non-destructive examination (NDE) techniques, such as dye penetrants (DPE), may be suitable.

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## ANNEX 2

### GUIDELINES ON SAFETY DURING ABANDON SHIP DRILLS USING LIFEBOATS

#### 1 GENERAL

##### 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 It is essential that seafarers are familiar with the life-saving systems on board their ships and that they have confidence that the systems provided for their safety will work and will be effective in an emergency. Frequent periodic shipboard drills are necessary to achieve this.

1.1.2 Crew training is an important component of drills. As a supplement to initial shore-side training, onboard training will familiarize crew members with the ship systems and the associated procedures for use, operation and drills. On these occasions, the objective is to develop appropriate crew competencies, enabling effective and safe utilization of the equipment required by the 1974 SOLAS Convention. The time limits set out in SOLAS for ship abandonment should be considered as a secondary objective when conducting drills.

##### 1.2 Drill frequency

Experience has shown that holding frequent drills furthers the goals of making the crew familiar with the life-saving systems on board their ships and increasing their confidence that the systems will work and will be effective in an emergency. Drills give the crew opportunity to gain experience in the use of the safety equipment and in cooperation. The ability to cope with an emergency and handle the situation, if the ship needs to be abandoned, needs to be well rehearsed. However, frequent crew changes sometimes make it difficult to assure that all on board have had the opportunity to participate in drills if only the minimum required drills are conducted. Therefore, consideration needs to be given to scheduling drills as necessary to ensure all on board have an early opportunity to become familiar with the systems on board.

##### 1.3 Drills must be safe

1.3.1 Abandon ship drills should be planned, organized and performed so that the recognized risks are minimized and in accordance with relevant shipboard requirements of occupational safety and health.

1.3.2 Drills provide an opportunity to verify that the life-saving system is working and that all associated equipment is in place and in good working order, ready for use.

1.3.3 Before conducting drills, it should be checked that the lifeboat and its safety equipment have been maintained in accordance with the ship's maintenance manuals and any associated technical documentation, as well as noting all the precautionary measures necessary. Abnormal conditions of wear and tear or corrosion should be reported to the responsible officer immediately.

##### 1.4 Emphasis on learning

Drills should be conducted with an emphasis on learning and be viewed as a learning experience, not just as a task to meet a regulatory requirement to conduct drills. Whether they are emergency drills required by SOLAS or additional special drills conducted to enhance the competence of the

crew members, they should be carried out at safe speed. During drills, care should be taken to ensure that everybody familiarizes themselves with their duties and with the equipment. If necessary, pauses should be made during the drills to explain especially difficult elements. The experience of the crew is an important factor in determining how fast a drill or certain drill elements should be carried out.

## **1.5 Planning and organizing drills**

1.5.1 The 1974 SOLAS Convention requires that drills shall, as far as practicable, be conducted as if there was an actual emergency.\* This means that the entire drill should, as far as possible, be carried out. The point is that, at the same time, it should be ensured that the drill can be carried out in such a way that it is safe in every respect. Consequently, elements of the drill that may involve unnecessary risks need special attention or may be excluded from the drill.

1.5.2 In preparing for a drill, those responsible should review the manufacturer's instruction manual to assure that a planned drill is conducted properly. Those responsible for the drill should assure that the crew is familiar with the guidance provided in the life-saving system instruction manual.

1.5.3 Lessons learned in the course of a drill should be documented and made a part of follow-up shipboard training discussions and planning the next drill session.

1.5.4 The lowering of a boat with its full complement of persons is an example of an element of a drill that may, depending on the circumstances, involve an unnecessary risk. Such drills should only be carried out if special precautions are observed.

## **2 ABANDON SHIP DRILLS**

### **2.1 Introduction**

It is important that the crew who operate safety equipment on board are familiar with the functioning and operation of such equipment. The 1974 SOLAS Convention requires that sufficiently detailed manufacturers' training manuals and instructions be carried on board, which should be easily understood by the crew. Such manufacturers' manuals and instructions should be accessible for everyone on board and observed and followed closely during drills.

### **2.2 Guidance to the shipowner**

2.2.1 The shipowner should ensure that new safety equipment on board the company's ships has been approved and installed in accordance with the provisions of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the International Life-Saving Appliances (LSA) Code.

2.2.2 Procedures for holding safe drills should be included in the Safety Management System (SMS) of the shipping companies. Detailed procedures for elements of drills that involve a special risk should be evident from workplace assessments adjusted to the relevant life-saving appliance.

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\* Refer to SOLAS regulation III/19.3.1.

2.2.3 Personnel carrying out maintenance and repair work on lifeboats should be qualified accordingly.\*

### **2.3 Lifeboats lowered by means of falls**

2.3.1 During drills, those responsible should be alert for potentially dangerous conditions and situations and should bring them to the attention of the responsible person for appropriate action. Feedback and improvement recommendations to the shipowner, the Administration and the system manufacturer are important elements of the marine safety system.

2.3.2 When performing drills with persons on board a lifeboat, it is recommended that the boat first be lowered and recovered without persons on board to ascertain that the arrangement functions correctly. In this case, the boat should then be lowered into the water with only the number of persons on board necessary to operate the boat.

2.3.3 To prevent lashings or gripes from getting entangled, proper release should be checked before swinging out the davit.

### **2.4 Free-fall lifeboats**

2.4.1 The monthly drills with free-fall lifeboats should be carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions, so that the persons who are to enter the boat in an emergency are trained to embark the boat, to take their seats in a correct way and to use the safety belts; and also are instructed on how to act during launching into the sea.

2.4.2 When the lifeboat is free-fall launched as part of a drill, this should be carried out with the minimum personnel required to manoeuvre the boat in the water and to recover it. The recovery operation should be carried out with special attention, bearing in mind the high risk level of this operation. Where permitted by SOLAS, simulated launching should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, taking due note of the Guidelines for simulated launching of free-fall lifeboats at appendix.

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\* Refer to the Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear (see annex 1).

## APPENDIX

### GUIDELINES FOR SIMULATED LAUNCHING OF FREE-FALL LIFEBOATS

#### 1 Definition

Simulated launching is a means of training the crew in the free-fall release procedure of free-fall lifeboats and in verifying the satisfactory function of the free-fall release system without allowing the lifeboat to fall into the sea.

#### 2 Purpose and scope

The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide a basic outline of essential steps to safely carry out simulated launching. These Guidelines are general; the lifeboat manufacturer's instruction manual should always be consulted before conducting simulated launching. Simulated launching should only be carried out with lifeboats and launching appliances designed to accommodate it, and for which the manufacturer has provided instructions. Simulated launching should be carried out under the supervision of a responsible person who should be an officer experienced in such procedures.

#### 3 Typical simulated launching sequence

3.1 Check equipment and documentation to ensure that all components of the lifeboat and launching appliance are in good operational condition.

3.2 Ensure that the restraining device(s) provided by the manufacturer for simulated launching are installed and secure and that the free-fall release mechanism is fully and correctly engaged.

3.3 Establish and maintain good communication between the assigned operating crew and the responsible person.

3.4 Disengage lashings, gripes, etc., installed to secure the lifeboat for sea or for maintenance, except those required for simulated free-fall.

3.5 Participating crew board the lifeboat and fasten their seatbelts under the supervision of the responsible person.

3.6 All crew, except the assigned operating crew, disembark the lifeboat. The assigned operating crew fully prepares the lifeboat for free-fall launch and secures themselves in their seats for the release operation.

3.7 The assigned operating crew activates the release mechanism when instructed by the responsible person. Ensure that the release mechanism operates satisfactorily and, if applicable, the lifeboat travels down the ramp to the distance specified in the manufacturer's instructions.

3.8 Resecure the lifeboat to its stowed position, using the means provided by the manufacturer and ensure that the free-fall release mechanism is fully and correctly engaged.



- 3.9 Repeat procedures from 3.7 above, using the back-up release mechanism when applicable.
  - 3.10 The assigned operating crew disembarks the lifeboat.
  - 3.11 Ensure that the lifeboat is returned to its normal stowed condition. Remove any restraining and/or recovery devices used only for the simulated launch procedure.
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RESOLUTION MSC.402(96) (adopted on 19 May 2016)  
REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL  
TESTING, OVERHAUL AND REPAIR OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS,  
LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR

**RESOLUTION MSC.402(96)**  
**(adopted on 19 May 2016)**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL  
TESTING, OVERHAUL AND REPAIR OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS,  
LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

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

RECALLING ALSO the *Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats* (MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1) and the *Interim recommendation on conditions for authorization of service providers for lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear* (MSC.1/Circ.1277) approved by it,

RECOGNIZING the need to establish a uniform, safe and documented standard for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear,

NOTING that, by resolution MSC.404(96), it adopted amendments to regulations III/3 and III/20 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("the Convention"), concerning maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear,

NOTING ALSO that the aforementioned regulation III/20 of the Convention provides that the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair shall be carried out in accordance with the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear ("the Requirements"),

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its ninety-sixth session, the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment, at its third session,

1 ADOPTS the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 INVITES Contracting Governments to the Convention to note that the Requirements will take effect on 1 January 2020 upon entry into force of the associated amendments to regulations III/3 and III/20 of the Convention;

3 ALSO INVITES Contracting Governments to the Convention to take measures they consider appropriate to ensure that national manufacturers of equipment certified under chapter III of the Convention for installation and use on board ships undertake to ensure that equipment, instructions, specialized tools, spare parts, training and accessories, as required, are available to independent service providers in a timely and cost-effective manner;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit certified copies of this resolution and the text of the Requirements contained in the annex to all Contracting Governments to the Convention;

5           REQUESTS ALSO the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and the annex to all Members of the Organization which are not Contracting Governments to the Convention.

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## ANNEX

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL TESTING, OVERHAUL AND REPAIR OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR**

#### **1 GENERAL**

1.1 The objective of these Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (the Requirements) is to establish a uniform, safe and documented standard for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of the equipment specified in paragraph 2.1.

1.2 The detailed procedures covered by these Requirements are provided in section 6.

1.3 These Requirements relate to the following regulations:

- .1 SOLAS regulation III/20 – Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections; and
- .2 SOLAS regulation III/36 – Instructions for on-board maintenance.

1.4 The Company shall ensure that maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair on board its ships is conducted in accordance with these Requirements and SOLAS regulation III/20. The Company shall establish and implement health, safety and environment (HSE) procedures covering all activities set out in these Requirements.

1.5 The personnel carrying out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair as described in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 shall be certified by an authorized service provider in accordance with the requirements specified in section 8. When performing such activities on board ships they shall comply with instructions and procedures established by the Company.

#### **2 APPLICATION**

2.1 These Requirements shall apply to the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of:

- .1 lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats; and
- .2 launching appliances and on-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit-launched liferafts.

2.2 For the purpose of these Requirements:

- .1 *Authorized service provider* means an entity authorized by the Administration in accordance with section 3 and section 7.
- .2 *Equipment* means the aforementioned equipment to which the Requirements apply.

- .3 *Manufacturer* means the original equipment manufacturer or any entity which has taken legal and legitimate responsibilities for equipment when the original equipment manufacturer no longer exists or supports the equipment.
- .4 *Off-load release mechanism* means a release mechanism which releases the survival craft/rescue boat/fast rescue boat when it is waterborne or when there is no load on the hooks.
- .5 *On-load release mechanism* means a release mechanism which releases the survival craft/rescue boat/fast rescue boat with load on the hooks.
- .6 *Repair* means any activities requiring disassembly of equipment, or any other activities outside the scope of the instructions for on-board maintenance and for emergency repair of life-saving appliances prepared in accordance with SOLAS regulations III/36.2 and III/35.3.18, respectively.
- .7 *Overhaul* means a periodical activity defined by the manufacturer that proves continued fitness for purpose for a defined period subject to correct maintenance.

### **3 AUTHORIZATION**

3.1 Administrations shall ensure that the thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of equipment (see paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3) shall be carried out in accordance with SOLAS regulation III/20 by service providers authorized in accordance with section 7.

3.2 The requirements in section 7 shall equally apply to manufacturers when they are acting as authorized service providers.

### **4 QUALIFICATION LEVELS AND CERTIFICATION**

4.1 Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s), shall be conducted by authorized service providers, or by shipboard personnel under the direction of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s).

4.2 Annual thorough examinations and operational tests, as described in section 6.2, shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider in accordance with section 7 and section 8. The service provider may be the ship operator provided that it is authorized in accordance with section 3 and section 7.

4.3 Five-year thorough examination, any overhaul, overload operational tests, as described in section 6.3, and repair shall be conducted by certified personnel of either the manufacturer or an authorized service provider in accordance with section 7 and section 8.

### **5 REPORTS AND RECORDS**

5.1 All reports and checklists shall be completed and signed by the person who carries out the inspection and maintenance work and countersigned by the Company's representative or the ship's master.

5.2 Records of maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair shall be updated and filed on board the ship for the service life of the equipment.

5.3 When thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair are completed, a statement confirming that the lifeboat arrangements remain fit for purpose shall be promptly issued by the manufacturer or authorized service provider that conducted the work. A copy of valid documents of certification and authorization as appropriate shall be included with the statement.

## **6 SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL TESTING, OVERHAUL AND REPAIR**

### **6.1 Maintenance manuals**

6.1.1 Any inspection, maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair shall be carried out according to the maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation developed by the manufacturer.

6.1.2 A full set of maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation as specified in paragraph 6.1.1 shall be available on board.

6.1.3 The maintenance manuals and associated technical documentation as specified in paragraph 6.1.1 shall include the items listed in sections 6.2 and 6.3 as a minimum and shall be kept up to date by the Company taking into account relevant information provided by the manufacturer.

### **6.2 Annual thorough examination and operational test**

6.2.1 All items listed in checklists for the weekly/monthly inspections required by SOLAS regulations III/20.6 and III/20.7 also form the first part of the annual thorough examination.

6.2.2 Records of inspections and routine on-board maintenance carried out by the ship's crew and the applicable certificates for the equipment shall be reviewed.

6.2.3 For lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats, the following items shall be thoroughly examined and checked for satisfactory condition and operation:

- .1 condition of the boat structure including fixed and loose equipment (including a visual examination of the external boundaries of the void spaces, as far as practicable);
- .2 engine and propulsion system;
- .3 sprinkler system, where fitted;
- .4 air supply system, where fitted;
- .5 manoeuvring system;
- .6 power supply system;
- .7 bailing system;
- .8 fender/skate arrangements; and
- .9 rescue boat righting system, where fitted.

6.2.4 For release gear of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and liferafts, the following shall be thoroughly examined for satisfactory condition and operation after the annual operational test of the winch brake with the empty boat or equivalent load, as required by paragraph 6.2.10:

- .1 operation of devices for activation of release gear;
- .2 excessive free play (tolerances);
- .3 hydrostatic interlock system, where fitted;
- .4 cables for control and release; and
- .5 hook fastening.

- Notes:**
- 1 The setting and maintenance of release gear are critical operations with regard to maintaining the safe operation of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched liferafts. Utmost care shall be taken when carrying out all inspection and maintenance operations on the equipment.
  - 2 No maintenance or adjustment of the release gear shall be undertaken while the hooks are under load.

6.2.5 The operational test of davit-launched lifeboats' and rescue boats' on-load release function shall be carried out as follows:

- .1 position the boat partially in the water such that the mass of the boat is substantially supported by the falls and the hydrostatic interlock system, where fitted, is not triggered;
- .2 operate the on-load release gear;
- .3 reset the on-load release gear; and
- .4 examine the release gear and hook fastening to ensure that the hook is completely reset and no damage has occurred.

6.2.6 The operational test of davit-launched lifeboats' and rescue boats' off-load release function shall be carried out as follows:

- .1 position the boat so that it is fully waterborne;
- .2 operate the off-load release gear;
- .3 reset the off-load release gear; and
- .4 recover the boat to the stowed position and prepare for operational readiness.

During the test, prior to hoisting, it shall be checked that the release gear is completely and properly reset. The final turning-in of the boat shall be done without any persons on board.



6.2.7 The operational test of the free-fall lifeboat release function shall be carried out as follows:

- .1 engage the arrangements for the test without launching the lifeboat, required by paragraph 4.7.6.4 of the LSA Code, as specified in the manufacturer's operating instructions;
- .2 if required to be on board, ensure that the operator is properly seated and secured in the seat location from which the release mechanism is to be operated;
- .3 operate the release mechanism to release the lifeboat;
- .4 reset the lifeboat in the stowed configuration;
- .5 repeat the procedures referred to in .2 to .4 above, using the back-up release mechanism, if applicable;
- .6 remove the arrangements for the test without launching the lifeboat, required by paragraph 4.7.6.4 of the LSA Code; and
- .7 verify that the lifeboat is in the ready to launch stowed configuration.

6.2.8 The operational test of the davit-launched liferaft automatic release function shall be carried out as follows:

- .1 manually release the hook with a load of 150 kg on the hook;
- .2 automatically release the hook with a dummy weight of 200 kg on the hook when it is lowered to the ground; and
- .3 examine the release hook and hook fastening to ensure that the hook is completely reset and no damage has occurred.

If a raft is used for the test instead of a dummy weight, the automatic release function shall release the raft when waterborne.

6.2.9 For launching appliances for lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and liferafts, the following items shall be examined for satisfactory condition and operation:

- .1 davit or other launching structures, in particular with regard to corrosion, misalignments, deformation and excessive free play;
- .2 wires and sheaves, possible damage such as kinks and corrosion;
- .3 lubrication of wires, sheaves and moving parts; and
- .4 if applicable:
  - .1 functioning of limit switches;
  - .2 stored power systems;
  - .3 hydraulic systems; and

- .5 for winches:
  - .1 inspecting the braking system in accordance with winch manual;
  - .2 replacing brake pads, when necessary;
  - .3 winch foundation; and
  - .4 if applicable:
    - .1 remote control system; and
    - .2 power supply system.

6.2.10 For winches of the launching appliances for lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and liferafts, annual operational testing shall be done by lowering the empty craft or boat or equivalent load. When the craft has reached its maximum lowering speed and before the craft enters the water, the brake shall be abruptly applied. Following these tests, the stressed structural parts shall be reinspected where the structure permits the reinspection.

### **6.3 Five-year thorough examination, overhaul and overload operational tests**

6.3.1 The five-year operational test of the winches of the launching appliances shall be carried out with a proof load equal to 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment. When the proof load has reached its maximum lowering speed, the brake shall be abruptly applied.

6.3.2 Following these tests, the stressed structural parts shall be reinspected where the structure permits the reinspection.

6.3.3 The operational tests and overhaul at five-year intervals of release gear for lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats, fast rescue boats and liferafts shall include:

- .1 dismantling of hook release units;
- .2 examinations with regard to tolerances and design requirements;
- .3 adjustment of release gear system after assembly;
- .4 operational tests as per paragraphs 6.2.5, 6.2.6, 6.2.7 or 6.2.8 above, as applicable, but with a load equal to 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment; and
- .5 examinations of vital parts with regard to defects and cracks.

6.3.4 Any other overhaul if required shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph 6.3.3.

## 7 REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

7.1 Authorization as required by paragraph 3.1 shall include, as a minimum, demonstration of:

- .1 employment and documentation of personnel certified in accordance with a recognized national, international or industry standard as applicable, or a manufacturer's established certification programme. In either case, the certification programme shall comply with section 8 for each make and type of equipment for which service is to be provided;
- .2 availability of sufficient tools, and in particular any specialized tools specified in the manufacturer's instructions, including portable tools as needed for work to be carried out on board ship;
- .3 access to appropriate parts and accessories as specified for maintenance and repair;
- .4 availability of the manufacturer's instructions for repair work involving disassembly or adjustment of on-load release mechanisms and davit winches; and
- .5 a documented and certified quality system, which covers at least the following:
  - .1 code of conduct for personnel involved in the relevant activity;
  - .2 maintenance and calibration of measuring tools and gauges;
  - .3 training programmes for personnel;
  - .4 supervision and verification to ensure compliance with operational procedures;
  - .5 recording and reporting of information;
  - .6 quality management of subsidiaries and agents;
  - .7 job preparation; and
  - .8 periodic review of work process procedures, complaints, corrective actions and issuance, maintenance and control of documents.

**Note:** A documented quality system complying with the most current version of the ISO 9000 series and including the above items would be considered acceptable.

7.2 The Administration shall ensure that information regarding authorized service providers is made available.

7.3 In cases where a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, the Administration may authorize service providers for the equipment on the basis of prior authorization for the equipment and/or long-term experience and demonstrated expertise as an authorized service provider.

#### 7.4 Issuance and maintenance of authorization document:

- .1 upon successful initial audit of a service provider, an authorization document shall be issued by the Administration defining the scope of services provided (e.g. makes and types of equipment). The expiry date shall be clearly written on the document;
- .2 the Administration shall ensure that work continues, e.g. by periodic audit, to be carried out in accordance with these Requirements, and shall withdraw the authorization of service providers who are not in compliance; and
- .3 the Administration may accept or recognize service providers authorized by other Administrations or by their Recognized Organizations.

### **8 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL**

8.1 Personnel for the work specified in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 shall be certified by the manufacturer or authorized service provider for each make and type of the equipment to be worked on in accordance with the provisions in this section.

#### **8.2 Education and training**

8.2.1 Initial certification shall be issued only to personnel having completed education, training and competence assessment. Education shall address, as a minimum:

- .1 relevant rules and regulations, including international conventions;
- .2 design and construction of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats, including on-load release gear and launching appliances;
- .3 causes of lifeboat and rescue boat accidents;
- .4 education and practical training in the procedures specified in section 6 for which certification is sought;
- .5 detailed procedures for thorough examination, operational testing, repair and overhaul of lifeboat (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and on-load release gear, as applicable;
- .6 procedures for issuing a report of service and statement of fitness for purpose based on paragraph 5.3; and
- .7 work, health and safety issues while conducting activities on board.

8.2.2 Training shall include practical technical training on thorough examination, operational testing, maintenance, repair and overhaul techniques using the equipment for which the personnel are to be certified. The technical training shall include disassembly, reassembly, correct operation and adjustment of the equipment. Classroom training shall be supplemented by field experience in the operations for which certification is sought, under the supervision of a certified person.

8.2.3 Prior to issuance of certification, a competency assessment shall be satisfactorily completed, using the equipment for which the personnel are to be certified.

### **8.3 Validity of certificates and renewal**

8.3.1 Upon completion of training and competency assessment, a certificate shall be issued defining the level of qualification and the scope of the certification (i.e. makes and types of equipment and specifically state which activities in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 are covered by the certification). The expiry date shall clearly be written on the certificate and shall be three years from the date of issue. The validity of any certificate shall be suspended in the event of any shortfall in performance and only revalidated after a further competency assessment.

8.3.2 A competency assessment shall be conducted to renew the certification. In cases where refresher training is found necessary a further assessment shall be carried out after completion.

RESOLUTION MSC.402(96) (adopted on 19 May 2016)  
REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE, THOROUGH EXAMINATION, OPERATIONAL  
TESTING, OVERHAUL AND REPAIR OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS,  
LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR

RESOLUTION MSC.404(96) (adopted on 19 May 2016)  
AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974, AS AMENDED

**RESOLUTION MSC.404(96)**  
**(adopted on 19 May 2016)**

**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 ALSO article VIII(b) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("the Convention"), concerning the amendment procedure applicable to the annex to the Convention, other than to the provisions of chapter I,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its ninety-sixth session, amendments to the Convention 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 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 2019, 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 the Secretary-General of their objections to the amendments;

3 INVITES Contracting Governments to the Convention to note that, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vii)(2) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2020 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of 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 REQUESTS ALSO 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.

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ANNEX

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

**CHAPTER II-2  
CONSTRUCTION – FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE DETECTION  
AND FIRE EXTINCTION**

**PART A  
GENERAL**

**Regulation 3 – Definitions**

1 The following new paragraphs are added after the existing paragraph 56:

"57 *Helicopter landing area* is an area on a ship designated for occasional or emergency landing of helicopters but not designed for routine helicopter operations.

58 *Winching area* is a pick-up area provided for the transfer by helicopter of personnel or stores to or from the ship, while the helicopter hovers above the deck.

**PART D  
ESCAPE**

**Regulation 13 – Means of escape**

2 The following new paragraphs are added after the existing paragraph 3.2.6.2:

"3.2.7 *Evacuation analysis for passenger ships*

3.2.7.1 Escape routes shall be evaluated by an evacuation analysis early in the design process. This analysis shall apply to:

- .1 ro-ro passenger ships constructed on or after 1 July 1999; and
- .2 other passenger ships constructed on or after 1 January 2020 carrying more than 36 passengers.

3.2.7.2 The analysis shall be used to identify and eliminate, as far as practicable, congestion which may develop during an abandonment, due to normal movement of passengers and crew along escape routes, including the possibility that crew may need to move along these routes in a direction opposite to the movement of passengers. In addition, the analysis shall be used to demonstrate that escape arrangements are sufficiently flexible to provide for the possibility that certain escape routes, assembly stations, embarkation stations or survival craft may not be available as a result of a casualty.

3 Paragraph 7.4 is deleted.

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**PART G  
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Regulation 18 – Helicopter facilities**

4 A new paragraph 2.3 is added after the existing paragraph 2.2, as follows:

"2.3 Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph 2.2 above, ships constructed on or after 1 January 2020, having a helicopter landing area, shall be provided with foam firefighting appliances which comply with the relevant provisions of chapter 17 of the Fire Safety Systems Code."

and the subsequent paragraphs are renumbered accordingly.

5 The renumbered paragraph 2.4 is replaced with the following text:

"2.4 Notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph 2.2 or 2.3 above, ro-ro passenger ships without helidecks shall comply with regulation III/28."

6 A new paragraph 5.1.6 is added after the existing paragraph 5.1.5 as follows:

".6 in lieu of the requirements of paragraphs 5.1.3 through 5.1.5, on ships constructed on or after 1 January 2020 having a helideck, foam firefighting appliances which comply with the provisions of the Fire Safety Systems Code."

and the remaining paragraphs are renumbered accordingly.

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

**PART A  
GENERAL**

**Regulation 3 – Definitions**

7 The following new paragraph 25 is added after the existing paragraph 24:

"25 *Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair* means the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization by resolution MSC.402(96), as may be amended by the Organization, provided that such amendments are adopted, brought into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of article VIII of the present Convention concerning the amendment procedures applicable to the annex other than chapter I."

**PART B**  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPS AND LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES**

**Regulation 20 – Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections**

- 8 The existing paragraph 3.1 is replaced with the following text:
- "3.1 Maintenance, testing and inspections of life-saving appliances shall be carried out in a manner having due regard to ensuring reliability of such appliances."
- 9 The existing paragraph 11 is replaced with the following text:
- "11 Maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear**
- 11.1 Launching appliances shall be:
- .1 subject to a thorough examination at the annual surveys required by regulations I/7 or I/8, as applicable; and
  - .2 upon completion of the examination referred to in paragraph 11.1.1, subjected to a dynamic test of the winch brake at maximum lowering speed. The load to be applied shall be the mass of the survival craft or rescue boat without persons on board, except that, at intervals of at least once every five years, the test shall be carried out with a proof load equal to 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment.
- 11.2 Lifeboat and rescue boat release gear, including fast rescue boat release gear and free-fall lifeboat release systems, shall be:
- .1 subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the annual surveys required by regulations I/7 and I/8;
  - .2 in case of on-load release gear, operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the boat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment whenever the release gear is overhauled. Such overhauling and operational test shall be carried out at least once every five years; and
  - .3 notwithstanding paragraph 11.2.2, the operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems shall be performed either by free fall launch with only the operating crew on board or by a test without launching the lifeboat carried out based on Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair.
- 11.3 Davit-launched liferaft automatic release hooks shall be:
- .1 subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the annual surveys required by regulations I/7 and I/8; and

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- .2 operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the liferaft when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment whenever the automatic release hook is overhauled. Such overhauling and operational test shall be carried out at least once every five years.
- 11.4 Lifeboats and rescue boats, including fast rescue boats, shall be subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the annual surveys required by regulations I/7 and I/8.
- 11.5 The thorough examination, operational testing and overhaul required by paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4 and the maintenance and repair of equipment specified in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4 shall be carried out in accordance with the Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair, and the instructions for onboard maintenance as required by regulation 36.

RESOLUTION MSC.404(96) (adopted on 19 May 2016)  
AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974, AS AMENDED