

Production Tests for Lifeboat Release Gear

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use

Reason for Amendment

In May 2011, IACS adopted an interpretation it developed related to the production tests for the release gear of lifeboats and rescue boats specified in IMO Resolution MSC.81(70) Part 2 Ch. 5.3.4 as Unified Interpretation (UI) SC244. This interpretation has already been incorporated into the Society's "Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use".

Thereafter, UI SC244 was discussed at the 56th Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment (DE56) held in February 2012 and some were of the opinion that it should be also applied to requirements related to the secondary means of launching for freefall lifeboats. In response, IACS conducted additional examinations of UI SC244 and as a result, agreed that the secondary means of launching for freefall lifeboats is not to be included in the scope of application of such tests on the grounds that said secondary means of launching is not via release gear. UI SC244(Rev.1) was adopted in October 2012 to clarify the above.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with IACS UI SC244(Rev.1).

Outline of Amendment

Relevant rules were amended to clarify that production tests for the release gear of lifeboats are not required for the secondary means of launching for freefall lifeboats.