

Subject :

Surveys of the launching appliance and
on-load release gear for lifeboat and
rescue boat on board Malta flag vessels

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 331

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To shipowners and shipbuilders concerned

SOLAS 1996 amendments requires in Regulation III/20.11 that launching appliances of lifeboats and rescue boats shall be subjected to a thorough examination and a dynamic test of the winch brake at interval not exceeding 5 years. In addition, lifeboat on-load release gear shall be subjected to an overhauling and an operational test at least every 5 years. The Administration of Malta has notified the Society of its requirements for launching appliances and on-load release gear on board Malta flag vessels, which are reproduced below for information/action:

1. The reference to 5 year intervals in III/20.11.1.2 and III/20.11.2.3 starts as of 1 July 1998.
2. The first service is to be carried out during the first Safety Equipment Renewal Survey on or after 1 July 1998. If at the time of this survey the port is not a convenient port, then a Conditional Safety Equipment Certificate is to be issued valid for only 6 month, by which time this requirement is to be complied with.
3. The thorough examinations/overhauls and tests in 5 year intervals shall be done in the presence of a surveyor.
4. A dynamic test of a winch brake is only required for appliances of new ships as defined by the 1983 SOLAS amendments.

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