

Subject :

**“Launching at 5 knots” test for lifeboat
and rescue boat at sea trial**

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

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To ship owners and shipyards concerned

Lifeboats installed on board ships of 20,000 gross tonnage and upwards, and rescue boats installed on board all ships should be capable of being launched, with the ships making headway at speeds up to 5 knots (launching at 5 knots) in calm water. (ref. regulation III/17.3 and 33.2 of 1996 amendments to 1974 SOLAS.

ClassNK has decided to require a “launching at 5 knots” test as a part of the on-board test for lifeboats or rescue boats when they are newly installed on board ships in order to ascertain that they comply with the requirements, and has developed the guidance for the test as per attached, to which you should adhere.

Attachment: Guidance for “Launching at 5 knots” Test for Lifeboats or Rescue boats

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Guidance for “Launching at 5 knots” Test for Lifeboats or Rescue boats

1. Application

The “launching at 5 knots” test should apply to the following lifeboats and rescue boats installed on board ships constructed on or after 1 July 1999 and to which the SOLAS Convention apply (except for ships of the Japanese Flag) and which are ships of Japanese Flag except for ships prescribed in 1.1.1-2 of ClassNK Rules for Life-Saving Appliances (for ships of the Japanese Flag).

- (1) lifeboats to be launched by a fall or falls (except for free-fall lifeboats) that are installed on board cargo ships of 20,000 gross tonnage and upwards, and
- (2) all rescue boats.

2. Guidance for “launching at 5 knots” test

The test should be carried out as a part of the on-board tests when the applicable lifeboats and rescue boats (hereinafter referred to as “the boats”) are first installed on board.

- (1) The test should be carried out during a sea trial of the ship in calm water.
- (2) The ships should be, in principle, on the lightest sea-going condition and on even keel.
- (3) The boats should be launched by means of a fall or falls up to the water and its release gear should be off while ship is making headway at speeds of 5 knots or more. Painters may be used during the testing. The boats should be fully equipped, or loaded with the equivalent mass thereto.
- (4) It should be ascertained that the boat can be safely launched, and no damages to the boats are seen.

3. Others

- (1) For cargo ships of 20,000 gross tonnage and upwards, if one of the lifeboats is used as rescue boat, the test may be carried out only for the lifeboat used as rescue boat.

- (2) The test may be dispensed with for a ship if its sister ship with the launching appliances at the same place or near thereto and with the same type of the boat as the one the ship in question carries was subjected to “launching at 5 knots” test with satisfactory results.

VOID