



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 012 of 27 June 2011

To:	All Surveyors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Replacement of Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems
Reference:	SAFETY- New SOLAS Regulation III/1.5- Revision to LAS Code and Guidelines for Evaluation and Replacement of Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems

To improve the safety of lifeboat release and retrieval systems (RRS), the IMO has introduced new requirements under SOLAS Regulation III/1.5. These apply to on-board release mechanisms installed on all ships.

Revisions have also been made to the LSA Code and new Guidelines for Evaluation and Replacement of Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems (MSC.1/Circ. 1392) have been developed.

The SOLAS and LSA Code revisions to enter into force on January 1, 2013. These amendments were adopted and the Guidelines were approved at the 89th session of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 89).

Requirements for existing RRS

Any existing RRS that do not comply with paragraphs 4.4.7.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the revised LSA Code must be replaced no later than July 1, 2019.

To assess compliance, existing on-load RRS should be evaluated in accordance with the Guidelines for Evaluation and Replacement of Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems. The evaluation process is as follows:

1. Self-assessment design review and performance test

RRS manufacturers should carry out self-assessment of their existing RRD types. The results and supporting documentation should be submitted by the manufacturer to the flag administration or recognized organization (RO) for design review. On successful completion of the designed review, the manufacturer should conduct a performance test witnessed by the flag administration or RO. The design review and performance test should be completed by

July 1, 2013.

2. Reporting

The flag administration should report to IMO whether each type of RRS:

- compliance with the revised LSA Code
- will comply after having been modified, or
- is not-compliant and therefore needs replacing.

Non-compliance RRS should be replaced with an approved design which complies with the revised LSA Code.

3. Overhaul examination on board the vessel

Vessel owners and operators must ensure that an overhaul examination of all RRS which are found to be compliant is carried out by the manufacturer or by one of their representatives, in accordance with the Annex 1 of MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1-Measures to Prevent Accidents with Lifeboats. This must be done no later than the first scheduled dry-docking after July 1, 2014. On completion of the overhaul examination, the RRS should be operationally tested in the presence of the flag administration or recognized organization.

Fitting of Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs) as an interim measure

Shipowners and managers should ensure that PPDs are fitted to any existing RRS which are pending evaluation. FPDs should be fitted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ. 1327-Guidelines for the Fitting and use of Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs)-until RRD is found to be compliant with the revised LSA Code.

Summary of existing RRD requirements

Shipowners and managers should identify existing types of on-load RRS being used on their vessels and ensure FPDs are fitted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1327 pending evaluation of the system.

Manufacturers should ensure that their on-load RRS are evaluated in accordance with the Guidelines for Evaluation and Replacement of Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems. Non-compliant RRS will require modification or replacement with compliant designs.

Flag administrations should report the evaluation results to the IMO. This information should be available to the different stakeholders and should clearly show which types of on-load RRS are compliant, will comply after modification or are non-compliant.

Kindest Regards,
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