



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 256 of 19th March 2015

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Hazardous occurrence related to lifeboat manuals
Reference:	SOLAS Ch. III

Hazardous occurrence related to lifeboat manuals

Report related to lifeboat manuals.

Incident Report

"Recently one of ship had a potentially serious accident when the lifeboat securing hooks released under load causing the boat to fall. The manufacturers immediately blamed the crew for not reading the instruction manual properly before they last attached the hooks to the lifeboat falls. The lifeboats are just too complicated for ordinary seafarers to use. It was finding that the manuals are confusing. Lifeboats are responsible for killing more seafarers during practice than they save in emergencies these days. The manufacturers expect and require that seafarers read and understand every page of their instruction manuals before they launch a lifeboat, even in an emergency.

Class Comment

The poor standard of some manuals has been raised repeatedly. Accidents associated with lifeboats are reported too frequently and a lack of familiarity with the equipment is often a factor. Good, clear instructions in a standard format could go some way to improving matters for seafarers who transfer between different equipment types. Icon based manuals using 500 word vocabularies have been written for complex military equipment, so why something comparable can't be developed for merchant ships?

REFERENCES:

SOLAS Ch. III

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
Cosmin Bozenovici
Naval Architect – Conarina Technical Head Office

Customer Service Center

5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:

joel@conarinagroup.com

Technical Head Office

7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (281) 370 9363,
1 (713) 204 6380

E-Mail: tho@conarinagroup.com,

houston@conarinagroup.com