



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 281 of 13th July 2015

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Release Mechanisms for Rescue Boats
Reference:	LSA Code

On-load release mechanisms for rescue boats (Applicability of the LSA Code 4.4.7.6)

The LSA Code as adopted by Resolution MSC.48(66) paragraphs 4.4.7.6.2.2 and 4.4.7.6.2.9 requires every lifeboat, including lifeboats which are also rescue boats, to be fitted with hooks that have on-load release capability. Exempted are free-fall lifeboats. The amended LSA Code, Resolution MSC.320 (89), contains the same requirements within paragraphs 4.4.7.6.7 and 4.4.7.6.17.

SOLAS and the LSA Code do not require boats used solely for rescue purposes to be fitted with on-load release mechanisms.

SOLAS Regulation III/1.5 requires existing lifeboat on-load release mechanisms to be evaluated/replaced as follows: "Notwithstanding paragraph 4.2, for all ships, not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, but not later than 1 July 2019, lifeboat on-load release mechanisms not complying with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the Code shall be replaced with equipment that complies with the Code"

Although the SOLAS timeframe for such replacement for lifeboats is the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, but not later than 1 July 2019, as 1 July 2014, has passed and some vessels have already completed dry-docking and are now required to evaluate their rescue boat on-load release mechanisms.

The Administrator will allow a grace period on a case-by-case basis for vessels to complete the replacement on rescue boats, as necessary

REFERENCES:

- LSA Code

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