



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 440 of 06<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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To: All Surveyors/Auditors

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Applicable to flag: All Flags

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**Seafarers of Risks of Lifeboat Accidents**

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Reference: SOLAS Convention

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**BIMCO Reminds Seafarers of Risks of Lifeboat Accidents**

In a measure of the continued safety risks posed by lifeboat accidents, BIMCO has issued a reminder that seafarers should use safety devices that prevent on-load release hooks from prematurely releasing the boat before it is lowered to the water.

Lifeboat accidents resulting in fatalities and serious injuries are all too frequent, despite efforts in recent years to reduce them, BIMCO noted. Most of the accidents happen in boats using conventional davits and on-load release systems. However, recently other parts of the suspension and lifting systems have been identified as points of failure too, particularly the wire rope falls on larger lifeboats.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) recommends the use of FPDs because so many recent lifeboat and rescue boat accidents have resulted in fatalities and injuries to seafarers. This constitutes an unacceptable risk and the use of FPDs is intended to be an interim measure to reduce this risk while new, safe IMO approved systems are developed. However, this process will take some years, and so BIMCO recommends FPDs for the intervening time until approval is secured.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS and BIMCO

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,  
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