



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 684 of 4^h June 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Amendments to SOLAS
Reference	SOLAS, Chapter II-1

Amendments to SOLAS

The Committee adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-1 which introduce new Regulation 25-1, which addresses **water level detector** requirements for multiple-hold cargo ships (other than bulk carriers and tankers). The new regulation will require such vessels to be fitted with *water level detectors in each cargo hold intended for dry cargoes*, regardless of length. The regulation calls for water level detectors to alarm at water levels of not less than 0.3m above the bottom of the cargo hold and at water levels of 15% of the depth of the cargo hold (but not more than 2m). As an alternative, to the water level detector at a height of not less than 0.3m a bilge level sensor serving the bilge pumping arrangement required by *Regulation II-1/35-1* and installed in the cargo hold bilge wells or other suitable location is considered acceptable, subject to :

1. the fitting of the bilge level sensor at a height of no less than 0.3 m in the aft end of the cargo hold and
2. the bilge level sensor giving an audible and visual alarm at the navigation bridge which is clearly distinctive from the alarm given by other water level detectors fitted in the cargo hold.

Additionally, the Committee adopted an amendment to Regulation III/33.2 of SOLAS to clarify that only davit-launched lifeboats will be subject to the requirement of demonstrating capability of launching and towing while the ship is making headway at speeds up to 5 knots in calm water.

This clarification is intended to confirm that free-fall lifeboats will not be subject to this requirement. These amendments to SOLAS are to enter-into-force on 01 January 2024, however the Committee agreed to invite the Contracting Governments to SOLAS to implement the amendments to SOLAS Regulation III/33.2 and paragraph 4.4.1.3.2 of the LSA Code prior to 1 January 2024.

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REFERENCES:

- SOLAS, Chapter II-1

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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