



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 728 of 4th May 2022

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Rescue boat winch
Reference	SOLAS – LSA instructions

Failure of Winch Remote Control/Emergency Stop Onboard

It is useful to analyse the failure of the winch remote control and emergency stop, during recovery of a rescue boat to the davit onboard.

The incident: There was a failure of the winch remote control and emergency stop during recovery of the rescue boat. The incident occurred on completion of rescue boat testing in good weather. The personnel in the small boat were disembarked at sea level and used a ladder to access the main deck. The AB started recovery of the boat using a remote control. When close to the final stowage position the remote control failed and the limit switch did not activate as designed. The main power supply switch was then operated to isolate the power supply to the winch.

The Cause: Testing revealed that the control circuit for davit recovery was fully operational. However, the recovery was not automatically stopped by the limit switch.

On inspection and disassembly of the contactor, it was found stuck, with contacts in the closed position. The system had undergone annual inspection by the approved independent inspector three weeks previously with the following statement:

- Remote control checked all OK
- Davit fall wire sheave inspected
- All electronics checked and found OK.

The most possible cause of failure was frequent intermittent use of the winch for fine adjustment of boat level to make it easier for the crew to get into and out of the fast rescue craft.

The davit winch was being repeatedly switched “on” and “off” for very short time intervals, which can cause the contacts burn out.

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The conclusions:

1. Ensure correct retrieval procedure is practice by all winch operators-limit switches should not be relied on to stop the recovery of craft.
2. Confirm correct installation of components including limit/proximity switches for davit systems.
3. Where limit/proximity switches have noted system faults, inspection should be completed before further use.
4. Ensure planned maintenance system covers regular function testing of emergency stop switches.
5. Limit/proximity switches be on fault should be replaced.

REFERENCES:

- CONARINA Instructions

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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