



**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 754 of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Towing and mooring equipment</b>
Reference	SOLAS Reg. II-1/3-8

**Towing and mooring equipment- new requirements**

The International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) has recently implemented new requirements and issued related guidelines on towing and mooring equipment to improve the safety of seafarers during mooring and unmooring operations and to counter the increase of dangerous and sometimes fatal incidents.

These new requirements are incorporated in the amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-8 contained in Resolution MSC.474(102) and come into force on **1 January 2024**.

**Application of new requirements**

The new requirements in the revised SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-8 apply as follows:

**Paragraphs 7 and 8**

**These are applicable for new ships:**

- a. for which the building contract is placed on or after 1 January 2024; or
- b. in the absence of a building contract, for which the keel is laid or is at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 July 2024; or
- c. which are delivered on or after 1 January 2027.

**Paragraph 9**

Maintenance and inspection requirements in Paragraph 9 apply to all SOLAS certified ships, both **existing** and new, from 1 January 2024.

**Also note the following guidelines:**

Guidelines on the design of mooring arrangements and the selection of appropriate mooring equipment and fittings for safe mooring (MSC.1/Circ. 1619)

Guidelines for inspection and maintenance of mooring equipment including lines (MSC.1/Circ. 1620)

Revised guidance on shipboard towing and mooring equipment (MSC.1/Circ.1175/Rev.1)

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**Significant changes for ships in operation**

Paragraph 9 of the amended SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-8 refers to MSC.1/Circ.1620 guidelines for the inspection and maintenance of mooring equipment (including lines) and applies to all ships in service from 1 January 2024.

MSC.1/Circ.1620 specifies recommendations and guidance for maintenance and in-service inspections of mooring equipment (including lines and tails), criteria for identifying worn-out lines and tails for removal from service before failure, and criteria for selection of replacement mooring lines and tails etc.

It is expected that all SOLAS ships from 1 January 2024 shall have documented maintenance plans, procedures and records for mooring operations, inspection and maintenance of mooring equipment (including mooring lines) as per the guidance provided in the circular MSC.1/Circ.1620.

**Impact on shipowners and operators**

Shipowners and operators need to be aware that the new regulations for inspection and maintenance of mooring equipment (including lines) apply to all ships in service from 1 January 2024. The necessary documentation needed to comply with the new regulations should be in place ahead of the entry into force date.

## REFERENCES:

- The IMO documents

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
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