



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 869 of 5th April 2025

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Testing of Free-Fall Lifeboat Release Systems
Reference	LSA Code

Development of Design and Prototype Test Requirements for the Arrangements Used in the Operational Testing of Free-Fall Lifeboat Release Systems Without Launching the Lifeboat

At SSE 10, the Sub-Committee considered expanding the scope of the output to ensure a comprehensive approach to safety by addressing not only the LSA Code but also other related instruments, thereby enhancing regulatory coherence.

This outcome was endorsed by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) 109th session which recognized the justification provided by the Sub-Committee, indicating a clear need for broader amendments.

Additionally, the aim was to finalize all relevant amendments during the current session, facilitating timely approval and adoption by MSC 110 and MSC 111 while ensuring that all necessary consequential amendments were included for a cohesive regulatory framework.

Lifeboat Release Testing

The Sub-Committee finalized draft amendments to the LSA Code by introducing a new paragraph 4.7.7 on lifeboat release testing. For each free-fall lifeboat installed, the arrangement to test the release system under load without launching the lifeboat into the water, in accordance with paragraph 4.7.6.4, shall be designed with a safety factor of at least six on the basis of the calculated maximum working load with full complement of persons and equipment and the ultimate strength of the materials used for its construction considering static and relevant dynamic loads. Components of this arrangement that are exposed to the marine environment, other than falls and temporarily installed equipment, shall be constructed from materials that are corrosion-resistant in the marine environment without the need for coatings or galvanizing.

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The draft amendments are expected to apply for each free-fall lifeboat installed on or after 1 January 2031

The draft amendments will be presented at MSC 110 (June 2025) for approval and subsequent adoption by MSC 111 (2026).

REFERENCES:

- MSC 110 (June 2025)

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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