



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 870 of 6th April 2025

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Emergency Training and Drills and Specifically Abandon Ship Drills
Reference	Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)

Emergency Training and Drills and Specifically Abandon Ship Drills (Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Regulation III/19.3.4.4)

The Sub-Committee finalized consequential draft amendments to SOLAS regulation III/19.3.4.4. According to these amendments, lifeboats shall be launched *at least once every six months*.

This can be done in one of two ways:

1. either by a free-fall launch with only the operating crew on board, or through a simulated launch that does not involve putting the lifeboat in the water in accordance with the Revised Guidelines on Safety During Abandon Ship Drills Using Lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1578/Rev.1).

The draft amendments will be presented at MSC 110 (June 2025) for approval and subsequent adoption by MSC 111 (2026) and are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2028.

REFERENCES:

- Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Regulation III/19.3.4.4)

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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