

Evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems

We have noticed that a number of vessels have still not evaluated the lifeboat release and retrieval systems to ensure compliance with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89).

Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators | Surveyors/Auditors

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We would like to remind Ship Owners that the deadline for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval system is approaching.

Regulation requirements

SOLAS regulation III/1.5, requires that for all ships of 500 GT and above, lifeboat release and retrieval system not complying with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89), be replaced or modified **not later than the next scheduled dry-docking** after 1 July 2014, **but not later than 1 July 2019**.

Considering that paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code represent important safety improvements, manufacturers should carry out a self-assessment of their types of existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems in accordance with the IMO MSC.1/Circ.1392.

Applicability

The requirement for ships to be fitted with on-load release gear has been made mandatory by SOLAS 1983 amendments. This means that as of 01/07/1986 all new ships shall be fitted with on-load release systems in compliance with the LSA code.

Taking the above applicability into consideration, **only ships constructed after 01/07/1986 must comply with the requirement** of on-load release gear and therefore with the new SOLAS Regulation III/1.5.

For ships constructed before 01/07/1986 fitted with an **open type lifeboat** which operates with off load release hooks do not need to comply with new SOLAS Regulation III/1.5.

For ships constructed before 01/07/1986 fitted with a **totally enclosed or semi enclosed lifeboat**, is the interpretation of this Bureau that this type must comply with the new SOLAS Regulation III/1.5.

Lastly, **free-fall lifeboats** in accordance with LSA Code Chapter IV/4.4.76 **are exempted from the requirement** to comply with this new SOLAS Regulation III/1.5.

Act now

Ship owners / Managers / Operators are urged to request from manufacturer or one of their representatives to check the lifeboat release and retrieval system in accordance with the IMO MSC.1/Circ.1392 and MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1.

After evaluation of the equipment, Ship owners / Managers / Operators must submit to URACOS the results of the evaluation for design review and arranging the performance test. Based on the result of the design review, URACOS will advise steps to be followed for the replacement of the lifeboat release and retrieval system, if deemed necessary.