

July, 2011

Lifeboat Release & Retrieval Systems - On-load Release Mechanism revisited

Amendments to SOLAS III – New Regulation 1.5:

By the attached [MSC1/Circ. 1393](#) IMO announces early application of a new regulation to SOLAS III. The new Regulation 1.5 requires that the lifeboat on-load release mechanism onboard all ships shall meet new requirements of the amended LSA Code.

It should be noted that the new regulation will apply to all ships constructed on or after 1 July 2014.

Note: By IMO flag state authorities are “encouraged to ensure that ships constructed on or after 20 May 2011 but before 1 July 2014 on-load release and retrieval systems comply with the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89)”. Ref. to the attached Circ. 1393, item 2.2. *)

Amendments to the LSA Code

The revised Chapter IV on design criteria of lifeboat release gear mechanism will enter into force 1 January 2013. By the attached [MSC.1/Circ. 1392](#) IMO provides guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems.

These guidelines state that an *evaluation of existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems* shall be completed not later than 1st July 2013.

Note 2: Three of the subparagraphs will also apply to existing ships, i.e. criteria of hook stability, locking devices and hydrostatic interlock (if provided).

Attached please see [Annex 4](#) from IMO’s MSC 89/25/Add.1 for clarification of the amendments to the mentioned code.

Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems

Immediate actions to be taken

All existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems shall be evaluated before 1 July 2013 according to the guidelines mentioned above. Hence, owners are encouraged to contact the maker of the systems as soon as possible in order to initiate the evaluation according to the guidelines. The closer we get to the date of implementation, the more difficult to obtain assistance. You are well advised, therefore, to initiate actions already now as ships are scheduled for docking and survey.

Attachment:

[IMO MSC.1/Circ.1392 LB Release & Retrieval Systems](#)

[IMO MSC.1/Circ.1983 Early Application of new SOLAS Reg. III/1.5](#)

[IMO MSC89/25/Add.1/Annex 4](#)

*) We should add that IMO’s wording includes that the equipment must be “replaced or modified not later than the next scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014 (and in any case no later than 2019)”. However, to prevent problems of congestion of companies requiring the same services from too few service providers, we would advise focus on the present requirement to ensure an *evaluation* of the systems on board all your vessels *prior to 1st July 2013*.