



MSN 009

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

**The maintenance and testing of launching appliances and release arrangements for lifeboats, rescue boats and liferafts**

**This MSN outlines the Isle of Man Ship Registry requirements for the maintenance and testing of launching appliances and release arrangements for lifeboats, rescue boats and liferafts, taking the recommendations of MSC 82 into account. The requirements are summarised in Annex I.**

**At MSC 82 it was decided not to make MSC Circular 1206 mandatory. The amendments to SOLAS Chapter III and the LSA Code (resolutions MSC.201(81), MSC.207(81), MSC.216(82) and MSC.218(82)) were adopted and will become effective 1/7/2008. MSC.1 Circ. 1215 urges Flag States to implement these SOLAS & LSA Code amendments early.**

**Most regulations and notices, along with casualty reports, are available on the Isle of Man Government web site: <http://www.gov.im/dti/shipping> or by contacting [marine.survey@gov.im](mailto:marine.survey@gov.im)**

**Documents referred to in this notice:**

**The International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code**

**SOLAS Ch III**

**MSC/Circ 1206, 1215**

**1. Documentation**

The instructions for maintenance of the launching appliances and release arrangements should be provided on board in English.

Suitable records must be maintained on board for the examinations and testing described below. The competent person, properly trained person, or class surveyor should issue a report for any examination or test conducted or witnessed. It is recommended that these reports are filed alongside the service records for liferaft/FFA/BA sets etc. within the vessel's document control system.

The class surveyor conducting safety equipment surveys will review this documentation for completeness.

## 2. Qualifications

- A '**competent person**' is defined as:-
  - A person who is trained and has the necessary skills, practical experience and knowledge of the type of lifting appliances and gears which he is required to inspect. He is to be provided with the necessary tools and spare parts together with manufacturers recommended maintenance instructions.
  - This person is not necessarily a member of the vessel's crew but may be the Master, Chief Engineer, Chief Officer or Second Engineer subject to the above criteria.
  
- A '**properly trained person**' familiar with the system is defined as:-
  - Ideally
    - a representative of the manufacturer
    - a person suitably trained by them
    - a representative of an organisation authorised by them.
  - If such person is not in existence or is unavailable, the owners should select another suitable shore side specialist with a proven experience in conducting this type of work. This selection is the responsibility of the Owners/Managers, who should include criteria/procedures within their Safety Management Systems to handle this. The Isle of Man Ship Registry will not approve these specialists.

## 3. Maintenance of launching appliance falls

At all inspections special attention should be paid to areas passing through sheaves.

Falls:-

- Shall be maintained by ship's crew in accordance with the instructions for on board maintenance;
- Shall be examined during the time window for (but not necessarily at) each safety equipment survey, by a competent person; and
- Shall be renewed whenever necessary due to deterioration or at intervals not exceeding 5 years, whichever is earlier.

There is no longer any requirement for 'end for ending' after 2½ years. There is no longer any dispensation for stainless steel falls.

#### **4. Launching appliances**

All launching appliances (including the secondary means of launching freefall lifeboats):-

- Shall be maintained by ship's crew in accordance with the instructions for on board maintenance;
- Shall be subjected to a thorough examination, by a competent person, during the time window for (but not necessarily at) each safety equipment survey;
- Shall, on the completion of every thorough examination, be subjected to a dynamic test of the winch brake at maximum lowering speed). The load to be applied shall be the mass of the lifeboat without persons aboard. This should be performed by a competent person. Due care should be taken with freefall boats; and
- Shall be subjected to a 110% dynamic test of the winch brake at maximum lowering speed at intervals not exceeding 5 years. The load to be applied is 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment. This test should be witnessed by a Class Surveyor.

#### **5. Release Arrangements**

Lifeboat/rescue boat on-load release gear, including freefall lifeboat release systems and davit launched liferaft automatic release hooks:-

- Shall be maintained by ship's crew in accordance with the instructions for on board maintenance;
- Shall be subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the time window for (but not necessarily at) each safety equipment survey by a properly trained person familiar with the system;
- Shall be overhauled by a properly trained person familiar with the system at intervals not exceeding 5 years; and
- Shall on completion of overhaul be operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total weight of the survival craft or rescue boat with its full complement of persons and equipment. This test should be witnessed by a Class Surveyor.

## **Definitions**

"Launching appliance" is the means of transferring a survival craft or rescue boat from its stowed position safely to the water. This includes the secondary means of launching for free-fall boats.

"On-load" release gear is designed to release the lifeboat or rescue boat under any conditions of loading from no load, with the boat waterborne, to a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the boat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment.

## ANNEX I – SUMMARY

	Competent Person	Properly Trained Person	Witnessed by Class Surveyor
Regular maintenance of launching appliance & falls as per PMS	✓		
Annual & 5 yearly examination of launching appliance & falls	✓		
Annual dynamic test winch brake (boat empty)	✓		
5 yearly test of winch brake (110%)			✓
Annual examination & 5 yearly overhaul of on-load release gear		✓	
Annual examination & 5 yearly overhaul of freefall lifeboat release systems		✓	
Annual examination & 5 yearly overhaul of davit launched liferaft automatic release hooks		✓	
5 yearly test of on-load release gear (110%)			✓
5 yearly test of freefall lifeboat release systems (110%)			✓
5 yearly test of davit launched liferaft automatic release hooks (110%)			✓

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