



**CIRCULAR no.** 4-2006

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| Category  |  | Jrn. number:     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nautical | Date: 15.12.2006 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other               | Sign.            |

***Issue: Periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats and rescueboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear***

***Guidelines and interpretation of SOLAS regulation III/20 and MSC.1/Circ. 1206 Annex 1***

**Regulations:**

- Regulation of 11 October 2004 No. 1341 concerning life-saving appliances on passenger ships
- Regulation of 17 December 2004 No. 1855 concerning life-saving appliances on cargo ships
- Regulation of 28 March 2000 No. 305 concerning surveys, construction and equipment on passenger ships engaged on domestic voyages
- Regulation of 15 September 1992 No. 700 concerning life-saving appliances on passenger ships and cargo ships
- SOLAS regulation III/20 as amended by Res. 152(78)
- MSC 1.Circ.1206 Annex 1, Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear

**Intention with the guidelines:**

This circular is intended to clarify the Norwegian Maritime Directorates (NMD's) interpretation of new requirements in SOLAS adopted on 20. May 2004 and entered into force on 1. July 2004, and of MSC/Circ. 1206 regarding periodical survey and service of lifeboats, rescueboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear and associated equipment, and circumstances regarding authorization of workshops and personnel that can perform the service. The requirements are implemented in the above mentioned regulations.

**Brief summary of requirements in SOLAS III/20 and MSC1./Circ.1206 Annex 1:**

All launching appliances shall be:

- Routine maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance as required by regulation III/36.
- Subject to a thorough examination at the annual surveys required by regulations I/7 or I/8, as applicable.
- Upon completion of the 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 on board. At least every fifth year the test shall be carried out with a proof load of 1.1 times the maximum load (MWL) of the winch.

Lifeboat on-load release gear shall be:

- Routine maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance as required by regulation III/36.
- Subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the annual surveys required by regulations I/7

or I/8, as applicable, by properly trained personnel familiar with the system.

- Operationally tested with a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the lifeboat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment whenever the release gear is overhauled. Such over-hauling and test shall be carried out at least once every fifth year.

**Interpretation of which personnel that can do the inspections and maintenance on the equipment:**

- Weekly and monthly routine maintenance should be carried out according to the manufacturers instructions by qualified personnel on board under supervision of a senior ship officer.
- Annual and five yearly thorough examination and maintenance shall if possible be carried out by personnel properly trained and authorized by the manufacturer.
- If the manufacturer do not exist, or if the manufacturer does not have available recourses to carry out the work during the time window for the annual surveys according to regulations I/7 and I/8, an independent authorized workshop may carry out the annual or five yearly thorough examination and maintenance. In such cases the ships owner should submit an application to the NMD as early as possible.

**Approval of an independent workshop:**

The workshop shall be approved by a recognized classification society (ROs). A list of approved workshops should be prepared by same.

The following should be minimum requirements for the authorization of the workshop:

- It should be documented that the workshop has satisfactory essential knowledge for maintenance of lifeboats and equipment.
- It should be documented that the workshop has a certified quality assurance system
- It should be confirmed that that the workshop has the necessary updated drawings and manuals for the equipment that shall be maintained.
- It should be confirmed that the workshop has the necessary properly trained personnel.

**Verification of tests after annual and five yearly thorough examination:**

- All test that shall be performed after annual and five yearly thorough examination and maintenance shall be verified by a inspector from the ship's classification society or the NMD

**Application for use of an independent workshop:**

- Ships with Safety Equipment Certificate/ Passenger ship Safety Certificate according to Solas, issued by a recognized classification society (ROs)\*, shall forward the application to the RO in question. The RO will handle the application. Other ships shall forward the application to Norwegian Maritime Directorate. The reason why the manufacturer can not carry out the work should be documented. The NMD/RO will consider such application very restrictive in cases where the manufacturer still exist.

\* Relevant to cargo ships and passenger ships registered in NIS, and to cargo ships registered in NOR where general authorization is given to the ships classification society.

It is important that the ships owners plans the inspections and order the manufacturer in due time. All annual inspections have a six months time window, and the renewal inspections have a 3 months time window before expiry date of the certificate. Extension of an annual inspection will not be accepted.

If the application is accepted by NMD, the owner will be informed to use the ships classification society to find an approved workshop.

**Authorization of the classification society:**

The NMD has authorized the recognized classification societies to approve independent work shops on behalf of the Norwegian Maritime Directorate.