

**Circular 131 / 2016**

**To: Vessel Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties**

**Subject: Evaluation and Replacement of Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems**

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Summary**

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.

### **Stage 1 – Design Review**

After a self-assessment of the existing equipment by the manufacturer, Dromon carries out a design review to check that the type of existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems comply with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code. In order to conduct design review the manufacturer shall submit to Dromon Engineering Department the following documentation:

- The approval certificate;
- All associated supporting design calculations;
- Plans and testing documentation;
- Specification and the installation instructions for the complete operating system; and
- Safety instructions regarding the operating system and any interlocks provided.

Any submission for testing of a lifeboat release and retrieval system that cannot be supported with the above-mentioned information should not be eligible for testing against the requirements of the LSA Code.

### **Stage 2 – Performance Test**

After a successful completion of the design review, a performance test should be conducted by the manufacturer for each type of lifeboat release and retrieval systems for compliance with paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 of the LSA Code. The performance test should be witnessed by Dromon surveyor. Should any part of the lifeboat release and retrieval system fail at any stage during the test, this type of lifeboat release and retrieval system should be deemed to be non-compliant and reported as such.

### **Stage 3 – Further actions based on the results of the performance test**

Depending on the outcome of the evaluation, every lifeboat release and retrieval system should be categorized as being either; compliant, compliant after modification or non-compliant. Thereafter:

- Systems categorized as being compliant, or compliant after modification, may remain in service; and
- Every system categorized as being non-compliant should be replaced with a new system or modified to be made compliant.

**The system complies with SOLAS III/1.5**

**Stage 0 - Manufacturer**

Inspect the lifeboat release and retrieval system according to MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1

**State 1 - Dromon**

Conduct design review

**Stage 2 – Dromon & Manufacturer**

Test the lifeboat release and retrieval system according to SOLAS III/20.11.2.3. Test shall include:

1. Lifeboat 1.1 x load test

**Stage 3 - Manufacturer**

A statement confirming that the lifeboat arrangements remain fit for purpose should be issued by the manufacturer who performed the work as required  
MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1

**Stage 4 - Dromon**

Inform the Flag State Administration and submit all supporting documentation and the statement from the manufacturer

**The system must be modified to comply with SOLAS III/1.5**

**Stage 0 - Manufacturer**

Inspect the lifeboat release and retrieval system and modify according to MSC.1/Circ.1392 & MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1

**State 1 - Dromon**

Conduct design review

**Stage 2 – Dromon & Manufacturer**

Test the lifeboat release and retrieval system according to SOLAS III/20.11.2.3.

Test shall include: 1. Lifeboat 1.1 x load test

**Stage 3 - Manufacturer**

A statement confirming that the lifeboat arrangements remain fit for purpose should be issued by the manufacturer who performed the work as required  
MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1

**Stage 4 - Dromon**

Inform the Flag State Administration and submit all supporting documentation and the statement from the manufacturer

**The system must be replaced to comply with SOLAS III/1.5**

**Stage 0 - Manufacturer**

Inspection of the lifeboat release and retrieval system and modify according to MSC.1/Circ.1392 & MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1

**State 1 - Dromon**

Conduct design review

**Stage 2 – Dromon & Manufacturer**

Replace of the lifeboat release and retrieval system

**Stage 3 – Dromon & Manufacturer**

Test of the lifeboat release and retrieval system accordingly to the MSC.1/Circ.1392. Tests shall include:

1. Hook 2 x load test
2. Lifeboat 1.1 x load test
3. 5 knots installation test (for vessels 20,000 GT or above)

**Stage 4 - Dromon**

Issue a statement of acceptance of the installation of replacement release and retrieval system to an existing lifeboat as per SWP21/Form 01 and inform the flag State Administration.

#### One time follow-up overhaul examination

Not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2014, every lifeboat release and retrieval system of a type found to be compliant in respect of the existing lifeboat release and retrieval system evaluation should be subject to an overhaul examination according to Annex 1 to the MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 by the manufacturer or by one of their representatives. The examination also includes verification that the system examined is of the same type as the system that passed the evaluation and is suitable for the ship.

The scope of the overhaul examination should also include a detailed assessment of the condition of the components of the lifeboat release and retrieval system to observe the extent of wear, corrosion, erosion and other types of material degradation that may have occurred. Upon satisfactory completion of the overhaul examination, the manufacturer or one of their representatives should issue a factual statement to confirm this, for retention on board.

#### 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.

**For further enquiries, please contact the Technical Department at [df@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:df@maritimecookislands.com)**

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.