

SC 310 Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 With Respect to a Factual Statement for Test and Thorough Examination of Non-Certified Lifting Appliances

(July 2025)

SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2 and II-1/3-13.3 reads as follows:

2 *Design, construction and installation*

2.1 *Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall be:*

.1 designed, constructed and installed in accordance with the requirements of a classification society which is recognized by the Administration in accordance with the provisions of regulation XI-1/1 or standards acceptable to the Administration which provide an equivalent level of safety; and

.2 load tested and thoroughly examined after installation and before being taken into use for the first time and after repairs, modifications or alterations of major character.

...

2.3 Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall be permanently marked and provided with documentary evidence for the safe working load (SWL).

2.4 Lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026 shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based on the Guidelines developed by the Organization¹ and comply with paragraph 2.3 no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

Guidelines for lifting appliances (MSC.1/Circ.1663) state:

3 *Maintenance, operation, inspection and testing*

"3.2.3.2 Load testing and thorough examination may be documented in any convenient form, provided each entry contains the necessary information, is clearly legible and is authenticated by a competent person. The minimum information to be included in the Certificate of test and thorough examination, as set out in the appendix 1, should be used. Alternatively, other formats may be used which are acceptable to the Administration, such as those of a classification society recognized by the Administration."

¹ Refer to the *Guidelines for lifting appliances* (MSC.1/Circ.1663).

Note:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on all ships on or after 1 January 2026.

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(cont)**Interpretation**

1 For existing lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026 without valid certificates of the test and thorough examination under another international instrument (e.g. ILO Convention concerning Occupational Safety and Health in Dock Work (No. 152)) acceptable to the Administration, compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 could be demonstrated by means of a "factual statement" (also known as a "statement of fact"), issued by the competent person approved by the Administration, or the classification society recognized by the Administration (recognized organization (RO)).

2 The factual statement should confirm that the lifting appliance has been subjected to a load test (the value of the test load is to be taken as per table 1 of paragraph 3.2.1.5 of the Guidelines for lifting appliances (MSC.1/Circ.1663)) and subsequently been thoroughly examined by the competent person approved by the Administration, or an RO, satisfying the requirements in SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 only. The criteria against which the load test and thorough examination have been carried out should be clearly stated in the factual statement. It should further be stated that the factual statement does not confirm compliance with SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and II-1/3-13.2.3. A sample factual statement is provided in the annex to this unified interpretation.

3 Where, as described in paragraph 3.2.1.6 of the Guidelines (MSC.1/Circ.1663), the safe working load (SWL) has been nominated by the Company (see definition SOLAS regulation IX/1), it should be made clear in the factual statement that the competent person approved by the Administration, or an RO, has confirmed that the test load has been calculated based on an SWL nominated by the Company, to the satisfaction of the Administration. Further, it should be made clear in the factual statement that the SWL is not confirmed by the competent person.

4 To avoid misinterpretation of the extent of the confirmation of compliance, the factual statement form should be different from the form used to confirm compliance with SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and II-1/3-13.2.3. The Sample Certificate in appendix 1 of the Guidelines should not be used also as a factual statement form to confirm compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4.

5 In order to document the history of the test and thorough examination and to comply with paragraph 3.2.2.1.1 of the Guidelines, the factual statement may be attached to the form "Register of lifting appliances and cargo handling gear" in appendix 3 of the Guidelines, as long as the factual statement clearly refers to documenting the compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 only.

6 In order to comply with paragraph 3.2.2.1.2 of the Guidelines, the annual thorough examination may be documented (as 12-monthly, with reference to Note 2 (b)) in the form "Register of lifting appliances and cargo handling gear" in appendix 3 of the Guidelines.

ANNEX*

**DRAFT OF SAMPLE FORM OF THE FACTUAL STATEMENT OF THE TEST AND
THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED EXISTING LIFTING APPLIANCES
INSTALLED BEFORE 1 JANUARY 2026**

Factual Statement
of the test and thorough examination of non-certified existing lifting appliances
installed before 1 January 2026

Issued under the provisions of paragraph 3.2.3.2 of the *Guidelines for lifting appliances*
(MSC.1/Circ.1663).

(Official seal)

Document No.:

Name of Ship:

IMO Number:

Call Sign:

Port of Registry:

Name of Owner:

THIS FACTUAL STATEMENT:

- .1 is to confirm that the lifting appliance(s) described herein, has/have been load tested and thoroughly examined and, on examination, found free from defects, as far as could be seen;
- .2 may be used to document compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4;
- .3 does not confirm compliance with SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and II-1/3-13.2.3;
- .4 does not confirm the safe working load (SWL) of the lifting appliance(s) nominated by the Company, to the satisfaction of Administration;
- .5 is to confirm that the lifting appliance(s) listed below has/have been subjected to a load test followed by thorough examination carried out by a competent person; and
- .6 is to confirm that the test load of _____ (tonnes) has been calculated in accordance with paragraphs 3.2.1.5 and 3.2.1.6 of *the Guidelines for lifting appliances* (MSC.1/Circ.1663), based on the safe working load (SWL) of _____ (tonnes) nominated by the Company to the satisfaction of the Administration (attached to this factual statement).

* The sample Factual Statement provided in the annex represents only a possible form of a factual statement. Other forms can also be used provided that all necessary information is contained.

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Situation and description of lifting appliance (with distinguishing number or mark, if any) which has been tested and thoroughly examined	Angle to the horizontal or radius at which test load is applied		Test load (tonnes)
	Angle (degrees)	Radius (metres)	
Lifting appliance A (e.g. description, serial number, etc.)			
Lifting appliance B (e.g. description, serial number, etc.)			

This factual statement is valid until: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Date of load test and thorough examination: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Issued at: (place of issue of the statement)

Date of issue: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Signature of the competent person issuing the factual statement:

End of Document
