

Towing Winch Emergency Release Systems

Amended Rules

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and O

Reason for Amendment

An incident involving a tugboat was recently reported to IACS. The tugboat was engaged in towing operations when the emergency release system of its towing winch failed to operate in a timely fashion. The problem was serious enough to eventually lead to the sinking of the tugboat.

In response to this incident, IACS developed a Unified Requirement (UR) which stipulates detailed specifications for towing winch emergency release systems and their corresponding survey requirements. This UR was adopted as IACS UR M79 in October 2018.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended based upon IACS UR M79.

Outline of Amendment

The main details of the amendment are as follows:

- (1) Stipulated that emergency release systems are to be fitted on towing winches of ships engaged in towing operations within close quarters, ports or terminals.
- (2) Stipulated specifications and survey requirements for towing winch emergency release systems.

Amended Requirements

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships

Part B: 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.5, 15.3.2

Part O: 4.4.2, Annex 4.4.2-3