

Clarification of Inspection Requirements for Launching Appliances, Release Gear, Lifeboats and Others

Amended Guidance

Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

Regulation III/20.11 of SOLAS stipulates requirements for the maintenance of launching appliances, release gear, lifeboats and others.

More specifically, it states that there is a need to perform dynamic testing of winch brakes at loads 1.1 times the combined mass of the crew, boat itself and the full of equipment for the launching appliances for lifeboats, etc. at least once every five years upon completion of thorough examinations at annual inspections. In addition, it states that there is a need to perform operational testing at loads 1.1 times the combined mass of the crew, the boat itself and the full of equipment for the release gears for lifeboats, etc., at least once every five years upon completion of overhauls.

With respect to the above, the IMO clarified at the 101th session of its Maritime Safety Committee (MSC101) held in June 2019 that the above-mentioned inspections and tests, which are to be performed at least once every five years, should be done in the presence of a surveyor. This clarification was adopted as unified interpretation MSC.1 / Circ.1618.

Relevant requirements were, therefore, amended to conform to the test requirements of the MSC.1 / Circ.1618.

Outline of Amendment

Amended relevant requirements in order to clarify that inspections for launching appliances, release gear, lifeboats and others, which are to be performed at least once every five years, should be done in the presence of a surveyor.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for Safety Equipment 2.3