

This text includes Resolution MSC.216(82) adopted at MSC 82. The amendments entered into force on 1 July 2008.

## **SOLAS**

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **Regulation 20 Operational readiness, maintenance and inspections**

1 This regulation applies to all ships. The requirements of paragraphs 3.2, 3.3 and 6.2 shall be complied with, as far as is practicable, on ships constructed before 1 July 1986.

##### **2 Operational readiness**

Before the ship leaves port and at all times during the voyage, all life-saving appliances shall be in working order and ready for immediate use.

##### **3 Maintenance**

3.1 Maintenance, testing and inspections of life-saving appliances shall be carried out based on the guidelines developed by the Organization\* and in a manner having due regard to ensuring reliability of such appliances.

\* ~~Refer to the Guidelines for periodic servicing and maintenance of lifeboats, launching appliances and on-load release gear (MSC/Circ.1093)~~

\* Refer to Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1206).

3.2 Instructions for on-board maintenance of life-saving appliances complying with the requirements of regulation 36 shall be provided and maintenance shall be carried out accordingly.

3.3 The Administration may accept, in lieu of the instructions required by paragraph 3.2, a shipboard planned maintenance programme which includes the requirements of regulation 36.

##### **4 Maintenance of falls**

~~4.1 Falls used in launching shall be turned end for end at intervals of not more than 30 months and be renewed when necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than five years, whichever is the earlier.~~

~~4.2 The Administration may accept in lieu of the "end for ending" required in paragraph 4.1, periodic inspection of the falls and their renewal whenever necessary due to deterioration or at intervals of not more than four years, whichever one is earlier.~~

Falls used in launching shall be inspected periodically\* with special regard for areas passing through sheaves, and renewed when necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than 5 years, whichever is the earlier.

\* Refer to Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats (MSC.1/Circ.1206).

##### **5 Spares and repair equipment**

Spares and repair equipment shall be provided for lifesaving appliances and their components which are subject to excessive wear or consumption and need to be replaced regularly.

##### **6 Weekly inspection**

The following tests and inspections shall be carried out weekly and a report of the inspection shall be entered in the log-book:

- .1 all survival craft, rescue boats and launching appliances shall be visually inspected to ensure that they are ready for use. The inspection shall include, but is not limited to, the condition of hooks, their attachment to the lifeboat, and the on-load release gear being properly and completely reset;
- .2 all engines in lifeboats and rescue boats shall be run for a total period of not less than 3 min. provided the ambient temperature is above the minimum temperature required for starting and running the engine. During this period of time, it should be demonstrated that the gear box and gear box train are engaging satisfactorily. If the special characteristics of an outboard motor fitted to a rescue boat would not allow it to be run other than with its propeller submerged for a period of 3 min, ~~it should be run for such period as prescribed in the manufacturer's handbook~~ a suitable water supply may be provided. In special cases the Administration may waive this requirement for ships constructed before 1 July 1986;
- .3 lifeboats, except free-fall lifeboats, on cargo ships shall be moved from their stowed position, without any persons on board, to the extent necessary to demonstrate satisfactory operation of launching appliances, if weather and sea conditions so allow for; and
- .4 the general emergency alarm system shall be tested.

## **7 Monthly inspections**

- 7.1 All lifeboats, except free-fall lifeboats, shall be turned out from their stowed position, without any persons on board if weather and sea conditions so allow.
- 7.2 Inspection of the life-saving appliances, including lifeboat equipment, shall be carried out monthly using the checklist required by regulation 36.1 to ensure that they are complete and in good order. A report of the inspection shall be entered in the log-book.

## ~~**8 Servicing of inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, marine evacuation systems, and inflated rescue boats**~~

## **8 Servicing of inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, and marine evacuation systems, and maintenance and repair of inflated rescue boats**

- 8.1 Every inflatable liferaft, inflatable lifejacket, and marine evacuation system shall be serviced:

- .1 at intervals not exceeding 12 months, provided where in any case this is impracticable, the Administration may extend this period to 17 months; and
- .2 at an approved servicing station which is competent to service them, maintains proper servicing facilities and uses only properly trained personnel.\*

\* Refer to the Recommendation on the Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts adopted by the Organization by resolution A.761(18).

- 8.2 Rotational deployment of marine evacuation systems

In addition to or in conjunction with the servicing intervals of marine evacuation systems required by paragraph 8.1, each marine evacuation system should be deployed from the ship on a rotational basis at intervals to be agreed by the Administration provided that each system is to be deployed at least once every six years.

- 8.3 An Administration which approves new and novel inflatable liferaft arrangements pursuant to regulation 4 may allow for extended service intervals on the following conditions:

- 8.3.1 The new and novel liferaft arrangement has proved to maintain the same standard, as required by testing procedure, during extended service intervals.
- 8.3.2 The liferaft system shall be checked on board by certified personnel according to paragraph 8.1.1.
- 8.3.3 Service at intervals not exceeding five years shall be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Organization.\*

\* Refer to the Recommendation on the Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferrafts adopted by the Organization by resolution A.761(18).

- 8.4 All repairs and maintenance of inflated rescue boats shall be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Emergency repairs may be carried out on board the ship; however, permanent repairs shall be effected at an approved servicing station.
- 8.5 An Administration which permits extension of liferaft service intervals in accordance with paragraph 8.3 shall notify the Organization of such action in accordance with regulation I/5(b).

## 9 Periodic servicing of hydrostatic release units

Hydrostatic release units, other than disposable hydrostatic release units, shall be serviced:

- .1 at intervals not exceeding 12 months, provided where in any case this is impracticable, the Administration may extend this period to 17 months \* ; and

\* Refer to MSC/Circ.955, Servicing of life-saving appliances and radiocommunication equipment under the harmonized system of survey and certification (HSSC).

- .2 at a servicing station which is competent to service them, maintains proper servicing facilities and uses only properly trained personnel.

## 10 Marking of stowage locations

Containers, brackets, racks, and other similar stowage locations for life-saving equipment, shall be marked with symbols in accordance with the recommendations of the Organization indicating the devices stowed in that location for that purpose. If more than one device is stowed in that location, the number of devices shall also be indicated.\*

\* Refer to the Symbols related to Life-saving appliances and arrangements adopted by the Organization by resolution A.760(180).

## 11 Periodic servicing of launching appliances and on-load release gear

11.1 Launching appliances shall be:

- .1 maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance as required by regulation 36;
- .2 subject to a thorough examination at the annual surveys required by regulations I/7 or I/8, as applicable; and
- .3 upon completion of the examination referred to in .2 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, except that, at intervals not exceeding five years, the test shall be carried out with a proof load of 1.1 times the maximum working load of the winch.~~ The load to be applied shall be the mass of the survival craft or rescue boat without persons on board, except that, at intervals not exceeding five years, the test shall be carried out with a proof load equal to 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment.

~~11.2 Lifeboat on-load release gear shall be:~~

11.2 Lifeboat or rescue boat on-load release gear, including free-fall lifeboat release systems, shall be:

- .1 maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance as required by regulation 36;
- .2 subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the annual surveys required by regulations 1/7 and 1/8 by properly trained personnel familiar with the system; and
- .3 operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the ~~lifeboat boat~~ 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 five years.\*

\* Refer to the Recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.689(17). For life-saving appliances installed on board on or after 1 July 1999, refer to the Revised Recommendations on testing of life-saving appliances, adopted by the Organization by resolution MSC.81(70).

11.3 Davit-launched liferaft automatic release hooks shall be:

- .1 maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance as required by regulation 36;
- .2 subject to a thorough examination and operational test during the annual surveys required by regulations 1/7 and 1/8 by properly trained personnel familiar with the system; and
- .3 operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the liferaft when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment whenever the automatic release hook is overhauled. Such over-hauling and test shall be carried out at least once every five years.\*

\* Refer to the Recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances, as adopted by the Organization by resolution A.689(17). For life-saving appliances installed on board on or after 1 July 1999, refer to the Revised Recommendations on testing of life-saving appliances, as adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the Organization by resolution MSC.81(70)."