

	<b>MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA</b>  <b>LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM</b>	Circular No.	14-08-08	P
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TO:

- (I) ALL OWNERS AND MASTERS OF JAMAICAN REGISTERED VESSELS
  - (II) ALL MANAGERS AND OPERATORS OF JAMAICAN REGISTERED VESSELS
  - (III) RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS
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**SUBJECT: LIFEBOAT RELEASE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM**

References: IMO resolution MSC 317(89), MSC 320(89), MSC 321(89), IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1392, MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, MSC.1/Circ.1393, MSC .1/Circ.1393, MSC.1/Circ.1327, SOLAS 1974 Chapter III/ Regulation 1.5

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**Summary:**

SOLAS Chapter III, New regulation 1.5 entered into force on 01 January 2014, requiring the lifeboat on-load release mechanism on all ships to meet the new requirements of the amended Life Saving Appliance (LSA) Code not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 01 July 2014, but not later than 01 July 2019.

**Application:**

1. All New ships constructed on or after 01 July 2014, the lifeboat on-load release mechanism shall meet the new requirements of the amended Life Saving Appliance (LSA) Code.
2. Existing ships constructed before 01 July 2014, fitted with the lifeboat on-load release mechanism shall meet the Life Saving appliance (LSA) Code, Chapter IV, paragraphs 4.4.7.6.4 to 4.4.7.6.6 as amended by the IMO resolution MSC 320(89) not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 01 July 2014 but not later than 01 July 2019.

**Requirement:**

Amendments to the Life Saving Appliance Code applicable to existing ships:

- Paragraph 4.4.7.6.4: to provide hook stability, the release mechanism shall be designed so that, when it is fully re-set in the closed position, the weight of the lifeboat does not cause any force to be transmitted to the operating mechanism.
- Paragraph 4.4.7.6.5: locking devices shall be designed so that they cannot turn to open, due to forces from the hook load; and
- Paragraph 4.4.7.6.6: If a hydrostatic interlock is provided, it shall be automatically re-set, upon lifting the boat from the water.

Existing ships fitted with off-load only release systems are not required to go through the evaluation process or replacement.

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) would like to remind all masters, owners, managers and operators of Jamaican registered vessels that the evaluation of existing lifeboat and retrieval systems should have been completed by the life-boat manufacturer, or by another manufacturer of lifeboat release and retrieval system or any party that has taken responsibility for the existing system when the original manufacturer no longer exists or supports the equipment. Reference is made to the IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1392, Guidelines for the evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems.

Ship owners/operators should confirm with their manufacturers, that the type of lifeboat on-load release and retrieval system has been submitted for evaluation and that the lifeboat on-load release and retrieval system has been found compliant, compliant after modification or non-compliant.

Lifeboat release and retrieval systems that are found to be compliant or compliant after modification may remain in service.

Lifeboat release and retrieval systems that are found to be non-compliant or not evaluated shall be replaced not later than the first scheduled dry-docking after 01 July 2014, but not later than 01 July 2019.

Lifeboat release and retrieval systems that are found compliant should be subject to a one-time follow-up overhaul examination according to annex 1 to MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 - Measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats by the manufacturer or one of its representatives. The examination should also include verification that the system examined is the same type as the system evaluated and is suitable for the ship.

The scope of the overhaul assessment 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 its representative should issue a factual statement to this effect. Such statement should be retained on board.

If the one-time overhaul examination should reveal defects affecting safe operation of the lifeboat release and retrieval system then the defective parts must be replaced.

Procedures for replacement of non-compliant lifeboat release and retrieval system should be carried out in accordance with the procedures detailed in IMO Circular MSC.1/ Circ.1392 and upon satisfactory completion of installation testing

A statement of compliance by the administration or its recognized organization should be issued for retention on board.

It is advised that Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs) which are recommended or accepted by the manufacturer are installed on release and retrieval systems at all times during testing until the systems are approved. Reference is made to the IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1327 - Guidelines for the fitting and use of Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs).

All Recognized Organizations appointed by the Maritime Authority of Jamaica are required to take note of this circular and ensure compliance of all Jamaican registered vessels by the target dates.

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**SURVEYOR GENERAL**  
**DIRECTORATE OF SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND CERTIFICATION**

**August 13, 2014**

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