



PERIODIC SERVICING OF LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND ON-LOAD RELEASE GEAR

Technical Notice SLS.2 Rev.1

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

Reference SOLAS 74 Chapter III Regulation 20.3.1, Regulation 20.11 as amended by Resolution MSC.152(78), MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circ.1277

The examination, repair and testing of launching appliances and on-load release gear for lifeboats, davit-launched liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats should be based on the guidance contained in MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1.

Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s) should be carried out by the ship's crew under the direct supervision of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s). All other inspections, servicing and repair should be carried out by either:

- the manufacturer or manufacturer's authorised representative; or
- an independent lifeboat servicing and testing organization or person certified in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277 by the Administration of a SOLAS Contracting Government; or
- an independent lifeboat servicing and testing organization or person certified in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1277 by a Recognized Organization (ABS, BV, CCS, NK, DNV, GL, KR, LR, PRS, RINA or RS) acting for and on behalf of the Administration of a SOLAS Contracting Government.

Notwithstanding the above, in instances where neither the manufacturer or his authorized representative nor an approved independent lifeboat servicing and testing organization or person are readily available at the port of survey, the Company may nominate an organization or person to undertake this task. The Company shall be responsible for assessing and selecting a suitable organization or person and therefore appropriate procedures related thereto shall be established within the Company's Safety Management System.

The thorough examination of launching appliances, dynamic test of winch brake, thorough examination and overhauling of the on-load release gear and the operational test shall be credited provided that:

- the inspection, servicing and repair are carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; and
- the report(s) and checklist(s) are duly completed and signed by the independent lifeboat servicing and testing organization or person that carried out the inspection and maintenance work. In addition, the report(s) and checklist(s) shall be counter-signed by the Company's representative or the ship's Master; and
- the independent lifeboat servicing and testing organization or person that carried out the inspection and maintenance work issues, upon completion of same, a statement confirming that the launching appliances and on-load release gear for the lifeboat(s), liferaft(s), rescue boat(s) and fast rescue boat(s), as applicable, remain fit for purpose.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

7 February 2013