SC 248 Greatest Launching Height for a Free-Fall Lifeboat (LSA Code 1.1.4)

(Sept 2011)

LSA Code 1.1.4 (Free-fall certification height):

Free-fall certification height is the greatest launching height for which the lifeboat is to be approved, measured from the still water surface to the lowest point on the lifeboat when the lifeboat is in the launch configuration.

LSA Code 6.1.4.4 (Launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats):

The launching appliance shall be designed and arranged so that in its ready to launch position, the distance from the lowest point on the lifeboat it serves to the water surface with the ship in its lightest seagoing condition does not exceed the lifeboat's free-fall certification height, taking into consideration the requirements of paragraph 4.7.3.

SOLAS III/3.13 (Lightest seagoing condition):

Lightest sea going condition is the loading condition with the ship on even keel, without cargo, with 10% stores and fuel remaining and in the case of a passenger ship with the full number of passengers and crew and their luggage.

Interpretation

The 'greatest launching height' of a free-fall lifeboat shall be measured from the lightest seagoing condition as defined in SOLAS III/3.13.

Determination of the ability of the lifeboat to be safely launched against a trim of up to 10° and list of up to 20° either way, as required by LSA Code paragraphs 4.7.3.1 and 6.1.1.1, need not assume a launching height greater than this 'greatest launching height.'

Notes

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2012.

2. The "contracted for construction" date means the date on which the contract to build the vessel is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. For further details regarding the date of "contract for construction", refer to IACS Procedural Requirement (PR) No. 29.

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