

## Flag States Information/Notice for FPDs

Flag	Information/Notice
Antigua and Barbuda	It is mandatory to provide FPDs. / Circ. 02-002-2012 Manufacturer's certificate of FPD is acceptable. / Circ 2012-007
Bahamas	It is non-mandatory to provide FPDs. / BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 117
Bahrain	It is non-mandatory to provide FPDs.
Bermuda	The Government of Bermuda strongly urges that all Bermuda vessels fitted with lifeboat on-load release systems be fitted with fall preventer devices (FPD) pending the evaluation of the systems for compliance with the requirements of the revised LSA Code. Prior to the fitting FPD's, the original approving authority of the launching gear should be consulted to ascertain whether the fitting of FPD's to the approved launching gear is acceptable.
Curacao	It is non-mandatory to provide FPDs.
Cyprus	FPDs in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1327 are to be employed for each existing lifeboat release and retrieval system until the systems installed on board comply with the requirement of SOLAS regulation III/1.5. The fitting of FPDs of ships in service is to be confirmed during the first survey required by SOLAS regulation I/7(a) or I/8(a), which they will be carrying out on or after 1 January 2012. / MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS Circular No.35/2011 / TEC-0894
Gibraltar	It is strongly urged to provide FPDs. / Shipping Guidance Notice - 32
Greece	It is mandatory to provide FPDs under the following conditions: / Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Islands & Fisheries, Merchant Ships' Inspections General Directorate, Regulations and organizations Division: "Application of the provisional the new regulation III/5 SOLAS 74 as applied", Ref.No. 4339.10/75/12 - Type approval (by the Administration or the Recognized Organization) for the compliance of the FPDs with MSC.1/Circ.1327. - Agreement of the lifeboats' manufacturer, as well as relative guidelines for their placement. - In the case that modification of the rescue equipment (foul weather recovery strop), there should be a relative approval from the Organization or the Authority which has certified the foul weather recovery strop. - After the exercises will have taken place, FPDs will not remain secured with the lifeboat. Relative records will be recorded in the ship's diary.
Hong Kong	It is strongly urged to provide FPDs. And, it is mandatory to provide FPDs for the existing lifeboat release and retrieval systems have been evaluated as being non-compliant with the revised LSA Code. / TEC-0886
Ireland	It is mandatory to provide FPDs / Notice to Mariners No.54 of 2011
Isle of Man	The Ship Registry strongly recommends the use of fall preventer devices (FPDs). The definition of FPDs is stated in MSC.1/Circ.1466. If FPDs are fitted they must be fitted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1327 and employed for each existing lifeboat release and retrieval system, until the system is:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evaluated and found to be in compliance with MSC.1/Circ.1392; or</li> <li>- modified then evaluated and found to be in compliance with MSC.1/Circ.1392; or</li> <li>- replaced by a new lifeboat release and retrieval system.</li> </ul> <p>The use of FPDs must be documented in the ship's safety management system.</p> <p>FPDs must be inspected before use and thoroughly inspected by a senior member of the ship's crew every six months.</p>
Liberia	FPDs shall be employed. / Marine Notice SAF-005 Rev.06/12
Malta	It is mandatory to provide FPDs until 1 January 2013. / TEC-0862 Manufacturer's certificate of FPD is acceptable.
Marshall Islands	It is non-mandatory to provide FPDs. / Marine Notice No. 2-011-37 / TEC-0888
Mauritius	It is mandatory to provide FPDs. / Notice to Mariners Ref: 1 of 2011
Netherland	It is non-mandatory to provide FPDs. / EasyRules
Norway	It is mandatory to provide FPDs. / TEC-0893
Panama	It is non-mandatory to provide FPDs. / TEC-0974
Portugal	It is strongly urged to provide FPDs. / DGRM Circular No. 35
Singapore	It is strongly urged to provide FPDs. / Shipping Circular to Shipowners No.14 of 2011
U.K.	It is strongly urged to provide FPDs. / MARINE GUIDANCE NOTICE MGN 540 (M+F)
U.S.A.	<p>FAQ</p> <p>What is the Coast Guard's policy on the use of fall prevention devices (FPDs)?</p> <p>FPDs generally are one of two types: either (1) a locking pin that blocks the rotation of a release hook and thus its release from the fall; or (2) strops or slings that are intended to take the full load of the lifeboat, if necessary in the event of an unintentional release of the hook(s), by bypassing the hook itself and maintaining the connection of the lifeboat to the davit falls, without interfering with the raising, lowering, or stowage of the lifeboat when they are deployed.</p> <p>IMO guidance clearly states that FPDs are intended to be used only as an interim risk mitigation measure for existing on-load release hooks until such time that improved design and performance criteria are implemented. As such, since the use of FPDs can introduce certain operational risks, we recommend their use only until it can be confirmed that installed release mechanisms are "compliant".</p> <p>However, prior to the latest amendments affecting release hooks, several manufacturers obtained approval of hooks with integral locking pins. Although they are functionally similar to FPDs, these locking pins are permanent design features of the release mechanism. As long as those Coast Guard approved hooks with locking</p>

pins meet the requirements of the LSA Code as amended by MSC.320(89), as specified on the approval certificate, they are considered compliant with respect to SOLAS III/1.5.

Strop and sling type FPDs do not require formal Coast Guard approval. However, we encourage ship operators to follow the guidance in sections 2.2 and 3 of MSC.1/Circ.1327, “Guidelines for the Fitting and Use of Fall Preventer Devices (FPDs)” which may be obtained at <http://docs.imo.org> or from us. Some existing strop or sling type FPDs use the hanging-off pendant, also known as the maintenance pendant, as a point of connection to bypass the hook. When using strop/sling type FPDs that connect to the hanging-off pendant, operators should bear in mind that the hanging-off pendant, while a load bearing point, may not be designed with a safety factor adequate for the fully loaded weight, or more, of the lifeboat.