

SC 311

(Feb 2026)

Manual hoisting-up and turning-out of dedicated rescue boats from their stowed position on cargo ships

Paragraph 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code, as adopted by resolution MSC.48(66), states:

“A launching appliance shall not depend on any means other than gravity or stored mechanical power which is independent of the ship's power supplies to launch the survival craft or rescue boat it serves in the fully loaded and equipped condition and also in the light condition.”

Paragraph 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.459(101), states:

“A launching appliance shall not depend on any means other than gravity or stored mechanical power which is independent of the ship's power supplies to launch the survival craft or rescue boat it serves in the fully loaded and equipped condition and also in the light condition.

Notwithstanding the above, on cargo ships equipped with a rescue boat which is not one of the ship's survival craft, having a mass not more than 700 kg in fully equipped condition, with engine, but without the crew, the launching appliance of the boat does not need to be fitted with stored mechanical power provided that:

- .1 manual hoisting from the stowed position and turning out to the embarkation position is possible by one person;
- .2 the force on the crank handle does not exceed 160 N at the maximum crank radius of 350 mm; and
- .3 means having sufficient strength such as bowing line are provided for bringing the rescue boat against the ship's side and holding it alongside so that persons can be safely embarked.”

Paragraph 6.1.2.2 of the LSA Code, as adopted by resolution MSC.48(66), states:

“The launching mechanism shall be so arranged that it may be actuated by one person from a position on the ship's deck and, except for secondary launching appliances for free-fall lifeboats, from a position within the survival craft or rescue boat. When launched by a person on the deck, the survival craft or rescue boat shall be visible to that person.”

Interpretations of paragraph 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code

For cargo ships, hoisting up of a dedicated rescue boat from its stowed position is to be considered as part of launching preparation, but not part of the launching process. Therefore, manual hoisting up prior to embarkation may be acceptable for subsequent slewing out.

Note:

1. This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS member societies from 1 July 2027.

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(cont)**Interpretations of paragraph 6.1.2.2 of the LSA Code**

For cargo ships not fitted with stored mechanical power in compliance with paragraph 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code, as amended through resolution MSC.459(101), the manual hoisting from the stowed position and turning out to the embarkation position of the rescue boat does not need to be actuated from a position within the rescue boat.

Launching mechanism is the means to control the launch of the lifeboat or rescue boat after the point of embarkation when all persons assigned have boarded. Therefore, for cargo ships, manual hoisting up of a dedicated rescue boat prior to embarkation may be acceptable for subsequent slewing out by stored mechanical power.

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