

Emergency Exit Hatches to Open Deck

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships

Reason for Amendment

SOLAS regulation II-2/13.1 stipulates the functional requirements related to the means of escape to lifeboat and liferaft embarkation deck. These requirements are designed to ensure that persons on board can reach said deck both safely and swiftly in times of emergency.

However, in some cases the overhead hatches fitted along escape routes can be quite heavy and, therefore, rather difficult for a typical person to open, which may impair their ability to escape swiftly.

Therefore, IACS adopted Unified Interpretation SC247 in September 2011, which stipulates the maximum force, etc. required to open overhead hatches.

Accordingly, relevant requirements have been amended in accordance with IACS Unified Interpretation SC247.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) To stipulates requirements specifying that hatches are to be capable of being opened from both sides.
- (2) To stipulates requirements related to the maximum force required to open hatches.