

Lifeboat Release Mechanisms

Amended Guidance

Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

Performance requirements related to lifeboat release mechanisms are specified in regulation 4.4.7.6 of the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code. One of these requirements specifies that the materials used for hooks, etc. of lifeboat release mechanisms are to be corrosion resistant and not require any coating or galvanizing.

The aforementioned regulation, however, is not clear as to which kinds of materials are considered to be corrosion resistant and as to the scope of application of these materials. Moreover, the regulation is also not clear regarding the scope of application for the associated reset functions of interlocks for lifeboat release mechanisms.

Therefore, IACS established Unified Interpretation (UI) SC267 in January 2015 to clarify performance requirements of lifeboat release mechanisms found in the LSA Code.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with UI SC267.

Outline of Amendment

The main details of this amendment are as follows:

- (1) Specified requirements related to corrosion resistant materials used for the hooks, etc. of lifeboat release mechanisms;
- (2) Clarified that all interlocks, including hydrostatic components in operating mechanisms, are also to be made of corrosion resistant materials; and
- (3) Clarified that other means used instead of hydrostatic interlocks as lifeboat release mechanisms are also to be provided with reset functions.