

Alternative Methods for Lifeboat Drills

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part P
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Reason for Amendment

Regulation 14.12 of the MODU Code, the international standard for mobile offshore drilling units, specifies that drills for lifeboats, excluding free-fall lifeboats, are to include the starting of the engines and the lowering of at least one lifeboat. In addition, at least once every three months when conditions permit, a lifeboat is to be launched and manoeuvred with its assigned operating crew on board. These requirements have already been adopted into the NK Rules.

In some cases, however, the ocean areas where mobile offshore drilling units are operating may be subjected to severe weather conditions, such as strong winds, etc., for long periods of time. This can make the aforementioned launching and manoeuvring drills too dangerous to safely carry out. Therefore, the IMO decided to hold discussions on the possible alternative methods for conducting the aforementioned required drills.

At the 94th Session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC94) held in September 2014, a guideline related to alternative methods for lifeboat drills, which specifies maintenance methods for lifeboats and training methods for crew members, was agreed upon by the IMO. This new guideline was circulated as MSC.1/Circ.1486.

Furthermore, the MODU Code was amended to specify that methods which comply with MSC.1/Circ.1486 or which are accepted by administrations are recognized as alternative methods for lifeboat drills. This amendment was approved as MSC.387(94).

Therefore, all relevant requirements were amended in accordance with Res.MSC.387 (94).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Amended requirements related to ships which implement alternative means for lifeboat drills to specify that guidance on the implementation of alternative means is to be included in the operating manual for normal operations.
- (2) Amended requirements to specify that methods which comply with MSC.1/Circ.1486 or other equivalent means which are acceptable to administrations are to be recognized as alternatives to the launching and manoeuvring of at least one lifeboat once every three months.