

Lifeboat Release Mechanisms

Amended Guidance

Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

Regulation 4.4.7.6.9 of the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code specifies that all components of hook units, release handle units, etc. in lifeboats are to be of material corrosion resistant in the marine environment without the need for coatings or galvanizing.

IACS developed a unified interpretation for this regulation and adopted it as IACS UI SC267. IACS UI SC267 clarifies the requirements related to the above-mentioned corrosion resistant materials by specifying that corrosion tests are to be carried out on materials which are susceptible to pitting corrosion in the marine environment and the usage of certain materials is to be restricted, etc. These requirements have already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

Relevant industry members, however, requested that IACS apply the above-mentioned requirements to the operating cables used for release mechanisms in a rational manner because such cables are usually not exposed to the marine environment due the fact they are usually covered with sheaths and installed inside the lifeboat itself. In response to this request, IACS discussed ways to amend the scope of application relating to corrosion tests as well as the usage restrictions placed on certain materials for operating cables.

As a result, IACS decided to amend the relevant requirement so that cables made out of type 304 austenitic stainless steel, which has better corrosion resistant properties than ordinary steel, are acceptable for use without corrosion testing provided that the cables are covered with sheaths and installed inside the lifeboat. This revision was adopted as IACS UI SC267(Rev.1) in January 2016.

This unified interpretation was discussed at the 96th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC96) held in May 2016, and was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1529 subject to modifications made to the criteria for determining the need for corrosion tests.

This modification was incorporated into IACS UI SC267(Rev.1) and adopted as IACS UI SC267(Rev.2) in September 2016.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1529.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified that inner cables made out of type 304 austenitic stainless steel are acceptable for use provided that the cables are covered with sheaths and installed inside the lifeboat.
- (2) Amended the criteria value for the pitting resistance equivalent number, which is related to determining whether corrosion tests are required, from 25 to 22.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for Safety Equipment 3.1.1