Amendment on 29 June 2026

Resolved by Technical Committee on 29 January 2026

Revision of References to ISO Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation

Object of Amendment

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and C
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and CS

Reason for Amendment

Regulation II-1/3-9 of SOLAS requires that ships be provided with means of embarkation and disembarkation (e.g. accommodation ladders and gangways). In addition, IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1331 specifies detailed requirements for means of embarkation, disembarkation and winches for accommodation ladders. The Society has already incorporated the above requirements into its Rules.

At the 106th session of the IMO Marine Safety Committee (MSC106), it was pointed out that the installation work of the safety nets required by MSC.1/Circ.1331 to prevent falling from means of embarkation and disembarkation poses risks to the safety of crew members performing the work. Because of this, amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1331 were proposed based on the opinion that the falling from means of embarkation and disembarkation can be prevented by handrails of sufficient height and side nets.

At the 110th session of the IMO Marine Safety Committee (MSC110), the MSC approved amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1331 as MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1. These amendments add requirements for fall prevention measures through a combination of handrails and side nets as well as add new survey items for such and amend requirements for application of related ISO standards.

Accordingly, relevant requirements are amended based on MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1.

Outline of Amendment

(1) Adds requirements for fall prevention measures from means of embarkation and disembarkation through a combination of handrails and side nets.
(2) Adds requirements for the application of new ISO standards for means of embarkation and disembarkation and winches for accommodation ladders.
(3) Adds new survey items concerning side nets to the general examinations for the means of embarkation and disembarkation at Annual Surveys.

Effective Date and Application

This amendment applies to means of embarkation and disembarkation and winches for accommodation ladders (hereinafter referred to as “Equipment”) that fall under the following:

(a) those installed on ships for which the contract for construction is placed on or after 1 July 2026, or those, in the absence of a contract for construction, installed on ships the

keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 July 2026; or

(b) those installed on ships other than those ships prescribed in (a) above for which the contractual delivery date of the Equipment is on or after 1 July 2026 or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery date of the Equipment to the ship is on or after 1 July 2026.

ID:DX25-11

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
RULES FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS **Part B CLASS SURVEYS** **Chapter 2 CLASSIFICATION SURVEYS** **2.3 Alterations** **2.3.1 Examinations of Altered Parts***	**RULES FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS** **Part B CLASS SURVEYS** **Chapter 2 CLASSIFICATION SURVEYS** **2.3 Alterations** **2.3.1 Examinations of Altered Parts***	

Table B2.7 Survey - Hull and Equipment

Survey Item	Details
(Omitted)	
20 Means of embarkation and disembarkation	(1) Means of embarkation and disembarkation comply with **14.14, Part 1, Part C of the Rules**. (2) Accommodation ladders are subjected to static load tests at their specified maximum operational loads. (3) Winches hoisting and lowering of accommodation ladders are tested a minimum of two times in accordance with ISO 7364:1983, ISO 7364:2016 or another standard deemed appropriate by the Society. (4) Winches and accommodation ladders are verified to be in good conditions after testing
(Omitted)	

Remarks: This table is after the amendment.

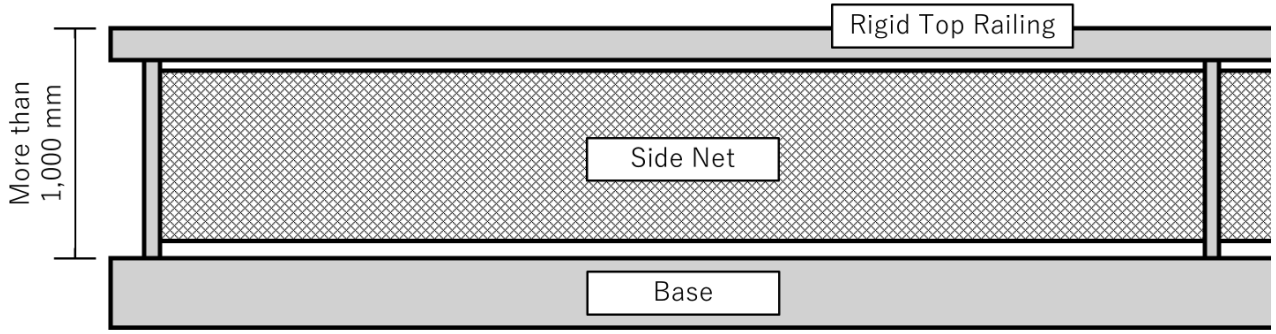
MSC.1/Circ.1331(Rev.1) 2.4 ~ 2.6, 3.6

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
RULES FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS **Part C HULL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT** **Part 1 GENERAL HULL REQUIREMENTS** **Chapter 14 EQUIPMENT** **14.14 Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation** **14.14.1 General** **14.14.1.1** **1** (Omitted) **2** With respect to the requirements specified in **14.14.1**, the means of embarkation and disembarkation are to be in accordance with the following. However, ships that have small freeboards and are provided with boarding ramps needs not to be in accordance with the following: (1) Accommodation ladders, gangways and accommodation ladder winches are to be constructed based on the following standards or requirements: (a) Accommodation ladders and gangways for means of embarkation and disembarkation i) For those installed before 1 July 2026 on board	**RULES FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS** **Part C HULL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT** **Part 1 GENERAL HULL REQUIREMENTS** **Chapter 14 EQUIPMENT** **14.14 Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation** **14.14.1 General** **14.14.1.1** **1** (Omitted) **2** With respect to the requirements specified in **14.14.1**, the means of embarkation and disembarkation are to be in accordance with the following. However, ships that have small freeboards and are provided with boarding ramps needs not to be in accordance with the following: (1) Accommodation ladders and gangways are to be constructed based on *ISO* 5488:1979 "Shipbuilding - accommodation ladders", *ISO* 7061:1993 "Shipbuilding - aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels" or standards where deemed appropriate by the Society. Accommodation ladder winches are to be constructed based	MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1 2.1 ~ 2.6

Amended	Original	Remarks
ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO* 5488:1979, Shipbuilding – Accommodation ladders, *ISO* 7061:1993, Shipbuilding – Aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels; ii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO* 5488:2015, Ships and marine technology – Accommodation ladders, *ISO* 7061:2015 or *ISO* 7061:2024, Ships and marine technology – Aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels; iii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed before 1 January 2010, applicable international standards (such as *ISO* 5488:1979, Shipbuilding – Accommodation ladders; *ISO* 5488:2015, Ships and marine technology – Accommodation ladders, *ISO* 7061:1993; *ISO* 7061:2015; or *ISO* 7061:2024, Ships and marine technology – Aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels) insofar as is reasonable and practicable; or iv) Other standards or requirements deemed appropriate by the Society. (b) Accommodation ladder winches i) For those installed before 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO* 7364:1983 Shipbuilding and marine structures – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches; ii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO*	on *ISO* 7364:1983 "Shipbuilding and marine structures – deck machinery – accommodation ladder winches" or standards where deemed appropriate by the Society or are to be the one pursuant to aforementioned standards.	

Amended	Original	Remarks
7364:2016 Ships and marine technology – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches; iii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed before 1 January 2010, applicable international standards (such as *ISO* 7364:1983, Shipbuilding and marine structures – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches; or *ISO* 7364:2016 Ships and marine technology – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches) insofar as is reasonable and practicable; or iv) Other standards or requirements deemed appropriate by the Society. ((2) to (10) are omitted.) (11) A safety net is to be mounted and arrangements that enable the installation of such net are to be provided to prevent falling accident in cases where it is possible that a person may fall from the means of embarkation and disembarkation or between the ship and quayside. A safety net, however, is not required when the following **(a)** and **(b)** are satisfied: (a) A side net, as shown in **Fig. 14.14.1.1-1**, is rigged between a top railing and the base of the means of embarkation and disembarkation, including its upper and lower platforms; and (b) The top railing is of a rigid construction at a height of not less than 1,000 *mm* from the base of the means of embarkation and disembarkation.	((2) to (10) are omitted.) (11) A safety net is to be mounted and arrangements that enable the installation of such net are to be provided to prevent falling accident in cases where it is possible that a person may fall from the means of embarkation and disembarkation or between the ship and quayside.	MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1 3.8.1 ~ 3.8.4

Amended	Original	Remarks
Fig. 14.14.1.1-1 Example of Side Net between Rigid Top Railing and Base of a Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation  		(Newly added) MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1 Figure 1

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS **Part B CLASS SURVEYS** **B1 GENERAL** **B1.4 Preparation for Survey and Other Items** **B1.4.2 Preparation for Surveys** (-1 to -12 are omitted.) **13** For ships not less than 500 *gross tonnage* which are engaged on international voyages, Surveyors are to confirm that the means of embarkation and disembarkation are maintained in accordance with Section 4 of *MSC*.1/*Circ*.1331/Rev.1 "*Guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of means of embarkation and disembarkation*" by investigating the inspection records specified in **1.4.2-1, Part B of the Rules**. (-14 and -15 are omitted.)	**GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS** **Part B CLASS SURVEYS** **B1 GENERAL** **B1.4 Preparation for Survey and Other Items** **B1.4.2 Preparation for Surveys** (-1 to -12 are omitted.) **13** For ships not less than 500 *gross tonnage* which are engaged on international voyages, Surveyors are to confirm that the means of embarkation and disembarkation are maintained in accordance with Section 4 of *MSC*.1/*Circ*.1331 "*Guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of means of embarkation and disembarkation*" by investigating the inspection records specified in **1.4.2-1, Part B of the Rules**. (-14 and -15 are omitted.)	MSC.1/Circ.1331(Rev.1)

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
B3 ANNUAL SURVEYS	**B3 ANNUAL SURVEYS**	
B3.2 Annual Surveys for Hull, Equipment, Fire Extinction and Fittings	**B3.2 Annual Surveys for Hull, Equipment, Fire Extinction and Fittings**	
B3.2.2 General Examination (-1 to -3 are omitted.)	**B3.2.2 General Examination** (-1 to -3 are omitted.)	
4 With regard to item 20 of **Table B3.2, Part B of the Rules**, the general examinations for the means of embarkation and disembarkation installed on ships not less than 500 *gross tonnage* engaged on international voyages are to be carried out in accordance with **(1)** to **(5)** below.	**4** With regard to item 20 of **Table B3.2, Part B of the Rules**, the general examinations for the means of embarkation and disembarkation installed on ships not less than 500 *gross tonnage* engaged on international voyages are to be carried out in accordance with **(1)** to **(5)** below.	MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1 5.1.1.1, 5.1.2.1, 5.2.1
(1) The following items of accommodation ladders are to be thoroughly examined and confirmed to be in good condition: (a) steps; (b) platforms; (c) all support points such as pivots, rollers, etc.; (d) all suspension points such as lugs, brackets, etc.; (e) stanchions, safety pins, rigid handrails, hand ropes, turntables (including pins), side nets and their securing points; and (f) davit structure, wire and sheaves, etc.	(1) The following items **(a) to (f)** of accommodation ladders are to be thoroughly examined and confirmed to be in good condition: (a) steps; (b) platforms; (c) all support points such as pivots, rollers, etc; (d) all suspension points such as lugs, brackets, etc; (e) stanchions, rigid handrails, hand ropes and turntables (including pins); and (f) davit structure, wire and sheaves, etc.	
(2) The following items of gangways are to be thoroughly examined and confirmed to be in good condition: (a) treads; (b) side stringers, cross-members, decking, deck plates, etc.;	(2) The following items **(a) to (d)** of gangways are to be thoroughly examined and confirmed to be in good condition: (a) treads; (b) side stringers, cross-members, decking, deck plates, etc;	

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
(c) all support points such as wheels, rollers, etc.; and (d) stanchions, safety pins, rigid handrails, hand ropes, side nets and their securing points. (3) The following items of winches are to be confirmed to be in good condition: (a) brake mechanism including condition of brake pads and band brakes; (b) remote control system; and (c) power supply system (in cases where a motor is used). (4) All fittings and davits on the ship deck associated with accommodation ladders and gangways are to be confirmed to be in good condition. (5) The fittings or structures for the means of access to decks, such as handholds in a gateway or bulwark ladder and stanchions, are to be confirmed to be in good condition. (-5 to -7 are omitted.)	(c) all support points such as wheel, roller, etc; and (d) stanchions, rigid handrails, hand ropes. (3) The following items (a) to (c) of winches are to be confirmed to be in good condition: (a) brake mechanism including condition of brake pads and band brake; (b) remote control system; and (c) power supply system (in cases where motor is used). (4) All fittings and davits on the ship deck associated with accommodation ladders and gangways are to be confirmed to be in good condition. (5) The fittings or structures for the means of access to decks such as handholds in a gateway or bulwark ladder and stanchions are to be confirmed to be in good condition. (-5 to -7 are omitted.)	

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS **Part CS HULL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SMALL SHIPS** **CS21 BULWARKS, GUARDRAILS, FREEING ARRANGEMENTS, CARGO PORTS AND OTHER SIMILAR OPENINGS, SIDE SCUTTLES, RECTANGULAR WINDOWS, VENTILATORS AND GANGWAYS** **CS21.8 Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation** **CS21.8.1 General** **1** (Omitted) **2** With respect to **21.8.1, Part CS of the Rules**, the means of embarkation and disembarkation are to be in accordance with the following. However, ships that have small freeboards and are provided with boarding ramps needs not to be in accordance with the following: (1) Accommodation ladders, gangways and accommodation ladder winches are to be constructed based on the following standards or requirements: (a) Accommodation ladders and gangways for means of embarkation and disembarkation i) For those installed before 1 July 2026 on board	**GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS** **Part CS HULL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SMALL SHIPS** **CS21 BULWARKS, GUARDRAILS, FREEING ARRANGEMENTS, CARGO PORTS AND OTHER SIMILAR OPENINGS, SIDE SCUTTLES, RECTANGULAR WINDOWS, VENTILATORS AND GANGWAYS** **CS21.8 Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation** **CS21.8.1 General** **1** (Omitted) **2** With respect to the requirements specified in **21.8.1, Part CS of the Rules**, the means of embarkation and disembarkation are to be in accordance with the following. However, ships that have small freeboards and are provided with boarding ramps needs not to be in accordance with the following: (1) Accommodation ladders and gangways are to be constructed based on *ISO* 5488:1979 "Shipbuilding - accommodation ladders", *ISO* 7061:1993 "Shipbuilding - aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels" or standards where deemed appropriate by the Society. Accommodation ladder winches are to be constructed based	MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1 2.1 ~ 2.6

Amended	Original	Remarks
ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO* 5488:1979, Shipbuilding – Accommodation ladders, *ISO* 7061:1993, Shipbuilding – Aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels; ii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO* 5488:2015, Ships and marine technology – Accommodation ladders, *ISO* 7061:2015 or *ISO* 7061:2024, Ships and marine technology – Aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels; iii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed before 1 January 2010, applicable international standards (such as *ISO* 5488:1979, Shipbuilding – Accommodation ladders, or *ISO* 5488:2015, Ships and marine technology – Accommodation ladders; *ISO* 7061:1993; *ISO* 7061:2015; or *ISO* 7061:2024, Ships and marine technology – Aluminium shore gangways for seagoing vessels) insofar as is reasonable and practicable; or iv) Other standards or requirements deemed appropriate by the Society. (b) Accommodation ladder winches i) For those installed before 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO* 7364:1983 Shipbuilding and marine structures – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches; ii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, *ISO*	on *ISO* 7364:1983 "Shipbuilding and marine structures – deck machinery – accommodation ladder winches" or standards where deemed appropriate by the Society or are to be the one pursuant to aforementioned standards.	

Amended	Original	Remarks
7364:2016 Ships and marine technology – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches; iii) For those installed on or after 1 July 2026 on board ships constructed before 1 January 2010, applicable international standards (such as *ISO* 7364:1983, Shipbuilding and marine structures – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches; or *ISO* 7364:2016 Ships and marine technology – Deck machinery – Accommodation ladder winches) insofar as is reasonable and practicable ; or iv) Other standards or requirements deemed appropriate by the Society. ((2) to (10) are omitted.) (11) A safety net is to be mounted and arrangements that enable the installation of such net are to be provided to prevent falling accident in cases where it is possible that a person may fall from the means of embarkation and disembarkation or between the ship and quayside. A safety net, however, is not required when the following **(a)** and **(b)** are satisfied: (a) A side net is rigged between a top railing and the base of the means of embarkation and disembarkation, including its upper and lower platforms; and (b) The top railing is of a rigid construction at a height of not less than 1,000 *mm* from the base of the means of embarkation and disembarkation.	((2) to (10) are omitted.) (11) A safety net is to be mounted and arrangements that enable the installation of such net are to be provided to prevent falling accident in cases where it is possible that a person may fall from the means of embarkation and disembarkation or between the ship and quayside.	MSC.1/Circ.1331/Rev.1 3.8.1 ~ 3.8.4

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table
(Revision of ISO Reference Standards and Addition of Side Net Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation)

Amended	Original	Remarks
EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION **1.** The effective date of the amendments is 1 July 2026. **2.** Notwithstanding the amendments, the current requirements apply to means of embarkation and disembarkation and winches for accommodation ladders (hereinafter referred to as "Equipment") other than those which fall under the following: (1) Equipment installed in ships for which the date of contract for construction is on or after the effective date. (2) In the absence of a contract for construction, Equipment installed in ships the keels of which are laid or which are at *a similar stage of construction* before the effective date. (3) For Equipment installed in ships other than those ships prescribed in (1) and (2) above, that for which the date of contract for delivery is on or after the effective date. (4) For Equipment installed in ships other than those ships prescribed in (1) and (2) above, in the absence of a contractual delivery date, that for which the actual delivery date to the ship is on or after the effective date. (Note) The wording "a similar stage of construction" means the stage at which the construction identifiable with a specific ship begins and the assembly of that ship has commenced comprising at least 50 *tonnes* or 1 %* of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less.		