

Subject

Omission of "Launching at 5 knots" test of Rescue boat(s) and Lifeboat(s) for Malta -flagged vessels

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-1355
Date 4 July 2025

To whom it may concern

Transport Malta issued Technical Notice SLS.24 Rev.1 for omission of "Launching at 5 knots" test of Rescue boat(s) and Lifeboat(s) for sister ships.

Previously, the omission of "Launching at 5 knots" test for sister ships during new building had not been accepted for Lifeboat(s). By the notice and detailed instruction, the omission of "Launching at 5 knots" test of not only Rescue Boat(s) but also Lifeboat(s) for sister ships is accepted subject to confirmation of the following:

1. the sister ships are built according to the same plans of the lead ship on which the test has been carried out;
2. they are provided with Rescue Boat(s), Lifeboat(s) and Launching arrangement(s) that are identical to those on the lead ship on which the launch test has been carried out as stated as above 1.; and
3. type of Rescue Boat(s) and Lifeboat(s) are the same.

This instruction may apply to ships of which the keels were laid or which were at a similar stage of construction on or after 13 March 2013 for Rescue Boat(s) and 26 March 2025 for Life boat(s).

For existing ships undergoing the replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems as required by MSC.1/Circ.1392, the demonstration test by other equivalent method(s) may be accepted.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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1. Notice issued by Transport Malta (Technical Notice SLS.24 Rev.1)

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LAUNCH TEST OF RESCUE BOAT AND LIFEBOAT

Technical Notice SLS.24 Rev.1

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to Resolution MSC.81(70), Part 2, Paragraph 5.4, which *inter alia*, states that *it should be demonstrated that the fully equipped lifeboat on cargo ships of 20,000 gross tons or more and rescue boat can be launched from a ship proceeding ahead at a speed of not less than 5 knots in calm water and on an even keel. There should be no damage to the lifeboat or the rescue boat or their equipment as a result of this test.*

In addition to the above Resolution, Regulations 17.3 and 33.2 of Chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended; and, Paragraph 4.4.1.3.2 of the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code, also prescribe this launch test.

For ships built according to the same plans and with identical rescue boat(s) and launching arrangement(s) installed, the successful results from the launch test at headway speeds of up to 5 knots in calm water for the lead ship are acceptable as documented evidence of the ability to similarly launch the rescue boat(s) and/or lifeboat(s) from the sister ship(s) in the series. The Recognized Organization, after having verified that the aforementioned requisites are fulfilled, may proceed with documenting accordingly the waiver from the launch test for the sister ship(s).

For existing ships undergoing the replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems as required by MSC.1/Circ.1392, and to address challenges related to the launching test at headway speeds up to 5 knots in calm water, this Administration permits the demonstration test by other equivalent method(s) subject to not damaging the boat(s) or their equipment as a result of this test and to same being acceptable to the Recognised Organisation.



Revision History

Version	Description of changes
SLS.24	First issue of Technical Notice.
SLS.24 Rev. 1	Title amended, to include lifeboats.
	New paragraph added for existing ships undergoing the replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems as required by MSC.1/Circ.1392.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

26 March 2025