

Subject

Regarding the release gear mechanism, type SRS-37 which is equipped on lifeboats manufactured by Shigi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0694
Date 13 April 2007

To whom it may concern

On 22 May 2006, while at anchor in the Bay of Sept Iles, Canada, lifeboat drill was carried out on board the bulk carrier. During the recovery of lifeboat, the lifeboat fell in the accident. At present, Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) are investigating the lifeboat accident and has released a Marine Safety Advisory letter concerning the release gear mechanism, type SRS-37. Moreover the manufacturer of the lifeboat, Shigi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. published the safety guidance for the release gear mechanism as attached.

Object types of lifeboats manufactured by Shigi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. are as follows. And a part of following lifeboats manufactured from 2000 to 2004 are equipped with the release gear mechanism, type SRS-37.

Type of lifeboats :SZ-49BR, SZ-53BR, SZ-53TR, SZ-65BRS, SZ-65TRS, SZ-73TRS, SZ-80TRS

For the persons concerned of vessels which are carrying the above types of lifeboat, please carry out drill and maintenance of a lifeboat according to the attached guidance. In addition, according to the guidance, the main notes are as follows.

1. To be confirmed that no buckling of release cable and no damage of fixed metal fittings of a release cable.
2. To set a hook in a right procedure without giving excessive power to release handle.
3. To be confirmed that an indicator (a green mark) shown in the hook body agrees.

At present, some lifeboats manufactured by Japanese maker except Shigi Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. are equipped with the similar construction of hooks as type SRS-37. However, no similar damage is reported for those lifeboats as an attached case, because of different connection way of release cable and different operation.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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Attachment: A notice by the manufacturer "Prevention of falling accident of lifeboat equipped with our SRS-37 type release device"

NOTES:

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March 7 2007

To Whom it may concern

Shigi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

Prevention of falling accident of lifeboat equipped with our SRS-37 type release device

We applied "SRS-37 type" lifeboat hook from 2000 to around 2004. The damage by excessive force to release handle at the time of setting the above-mentioned hook was reported. It is a cause of falling accident of lifeboat. The parties who utilize lifeboats equipped with this release device should pay attention to following matter in order to utilize safely.

Important

In case of setting release handle, it should be able to set easily by the operation in accordance with our instruction manual,
It should be understood that unreasonable setting should never be done because this can be cause of falling accident

As for details, please read attached document "Document 1 Key points of operation manual of SRS-37 type release device. Please pay attention and check duly again to prevent falling accident of lifeboat.

Falling accident of the lifeboat equipped with this release device occurred during drill on May 22, 2006 in Canada, and investigation by Transport Safety Board of Canada has been continued. Result of investigation by our company is described in "Document 2 Result of investigation of falling accident of lifeboat equipped with SRS-37 type release device".

Please contact following for questions about this matter, and repair of equipment etc. .

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Key points of operation manual of SRS-37 type release device

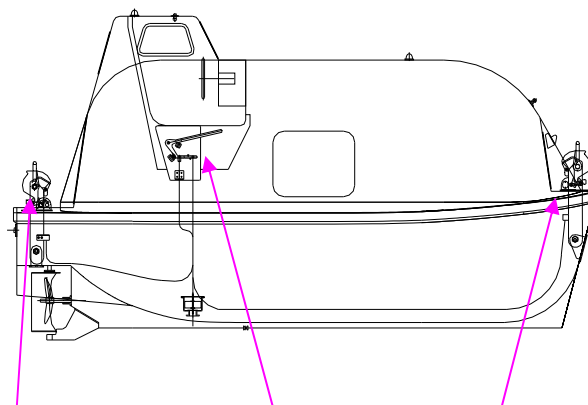
The customers who utilize SRS-37 should read this document. In case that SRS-37 type is utilized, please pay attention to especially following key points of operation 1 to 4 in order to utilize safely.

Basic operation is stipulated in the instruction manual of SRS-37 type release device. Please confirm and check duly. For details, please read the instruction manual of SRS-37 type release device.

Key points of operation 1

Please make sure to operate hook setting by three crews.

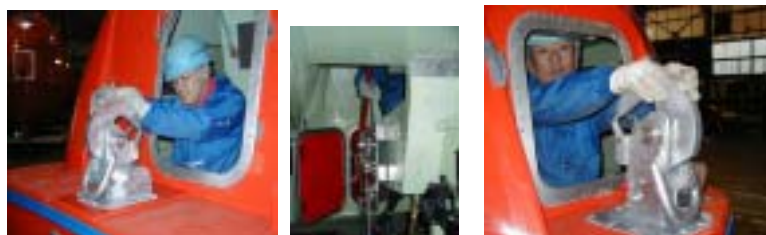
Helm position : one crew
Stem hook : one crew
Stern hook : one crew



Stern hook

Helm position

Stem hook

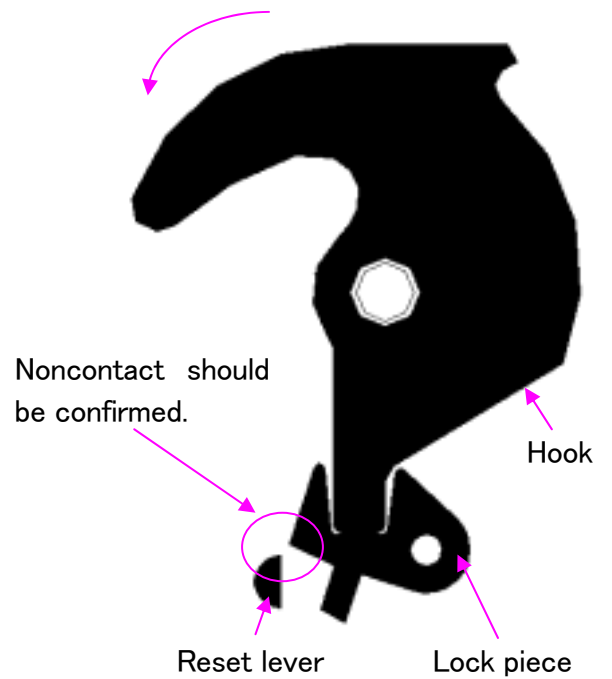


Key points of operation 2

Crews at stem and stern should pull and hold hook until it is stable with both hands during hook operation, and noncontact between lock piece and reset lever should be confirmed.

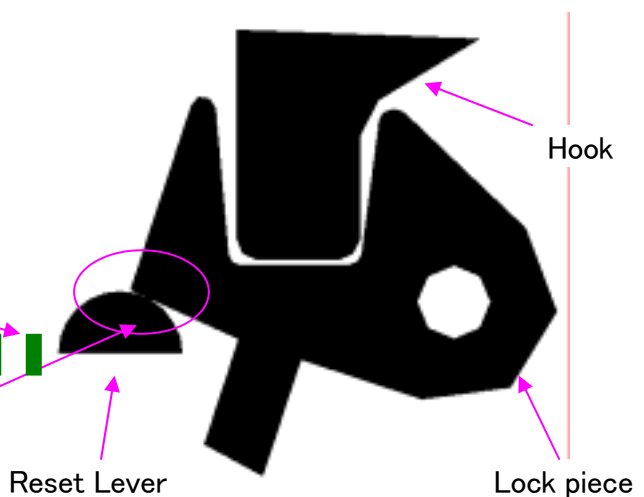
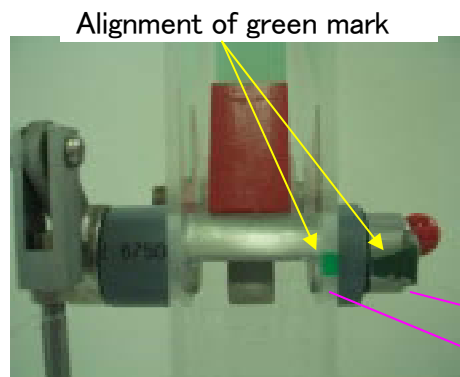
Crew at helm position can set release handle smoothly (note 1) under this condition.

(Note 1) Normal operation force is approximately 5 kg.



Key points of operation 3

After finishing setting release handle, alignment of green mark on stem and stern hook should be confirmed.





Key points of operation 4

In case that green mark on stem and stern hook are not aligned after finishing of safety pin insertion and release handle setting, some defect is considered in release device.

Danger

Pulling up and pulling down of lifeboat should never be done in this condition because falling accident occurs by hook opening affected sudden load addition.

In case that green mark on stem and stern hook are not aligned, damage of release cable and fixed angle or adjustment of release cable are required.

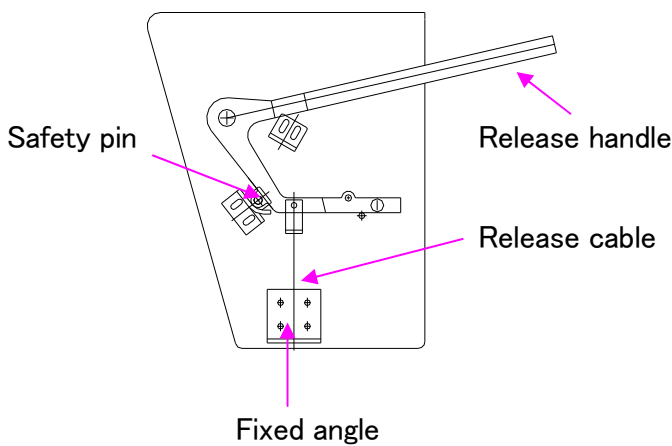
Please contact following immediately.

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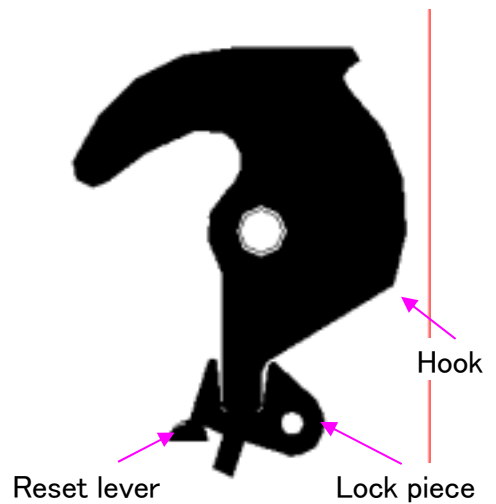
Result of investigation of falling accident of lifeboat equipped with SRS-37 type release device

After investigation of falling accident of lifeboat equipped with SRS-37 type release device, we found out that following procedure lead to falling accident. We would like to ask for the parties who utilize our lifeboat equipped with SRS-37 type release device to understand this matter, and hope that safety operation would be conducted in accordance with instruction manual.

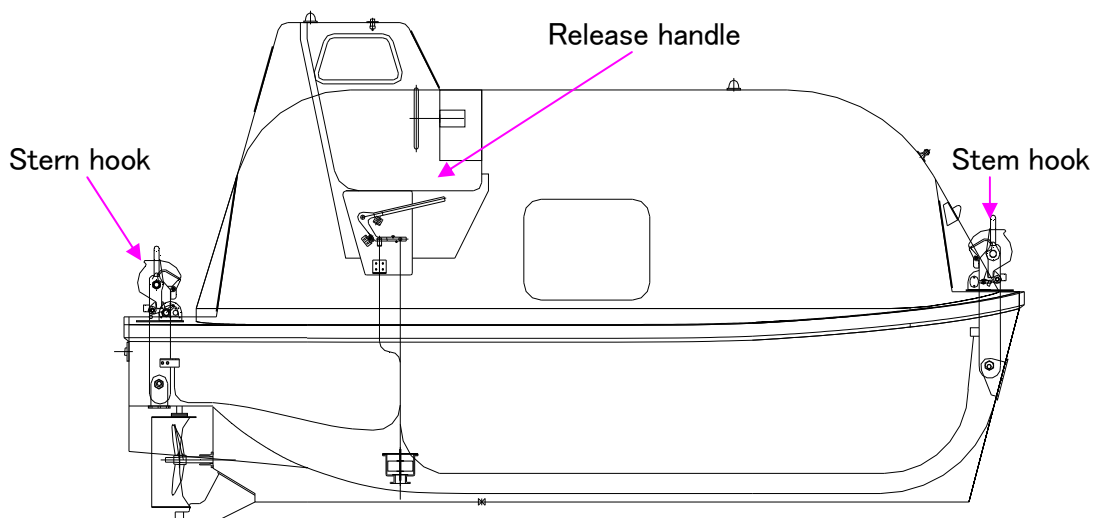
1. Structure and name of SRS-37 type release device



Picture 1.1 Handle panel



Picture 1.2 Hook



Picture 1.3 Lifeboat

2. Procedure of falling accident cause is as follows.

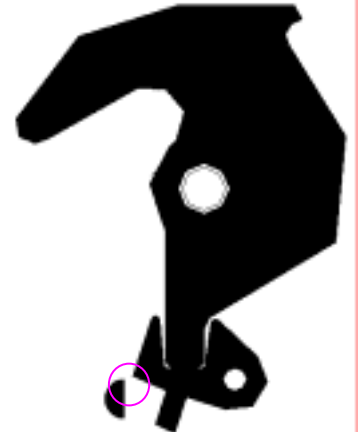
1. Insufficient pulling of hook by a crew at the time of hook setting after releasing, pulling up of lock piece becomes insufficient. (Picture 2.1 and Picture 2.2). In case that release handle is set under this condition, release handle cannot be set properly because lock piece and reset lever are interfered.



Picture 2.1
Insufficient holding



Picture 2.2
Insufficient holding



Picture 2.3
Sufficient holding

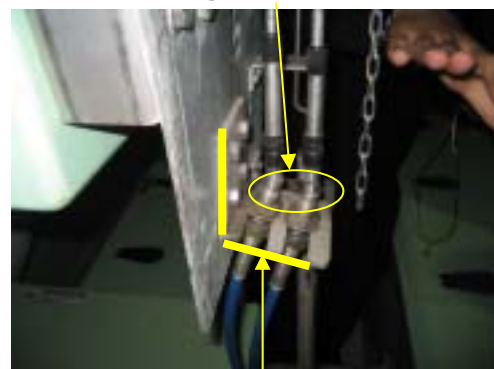
2. In case that a crew tries to set release handle with excessive force under the condition of picture 2.1 or picture 2.2, reset lever cannot be turned around and compression force is added to release cable. As a result, bending of release cable and deformation of fixed angle occurs. (Picture 3)

(Reference)

Normal operation force for release handle setting is approximately 5 kg. More than 160 kg force cause damage in each part. (Bending strength of release cable is 160kg / two cables.)



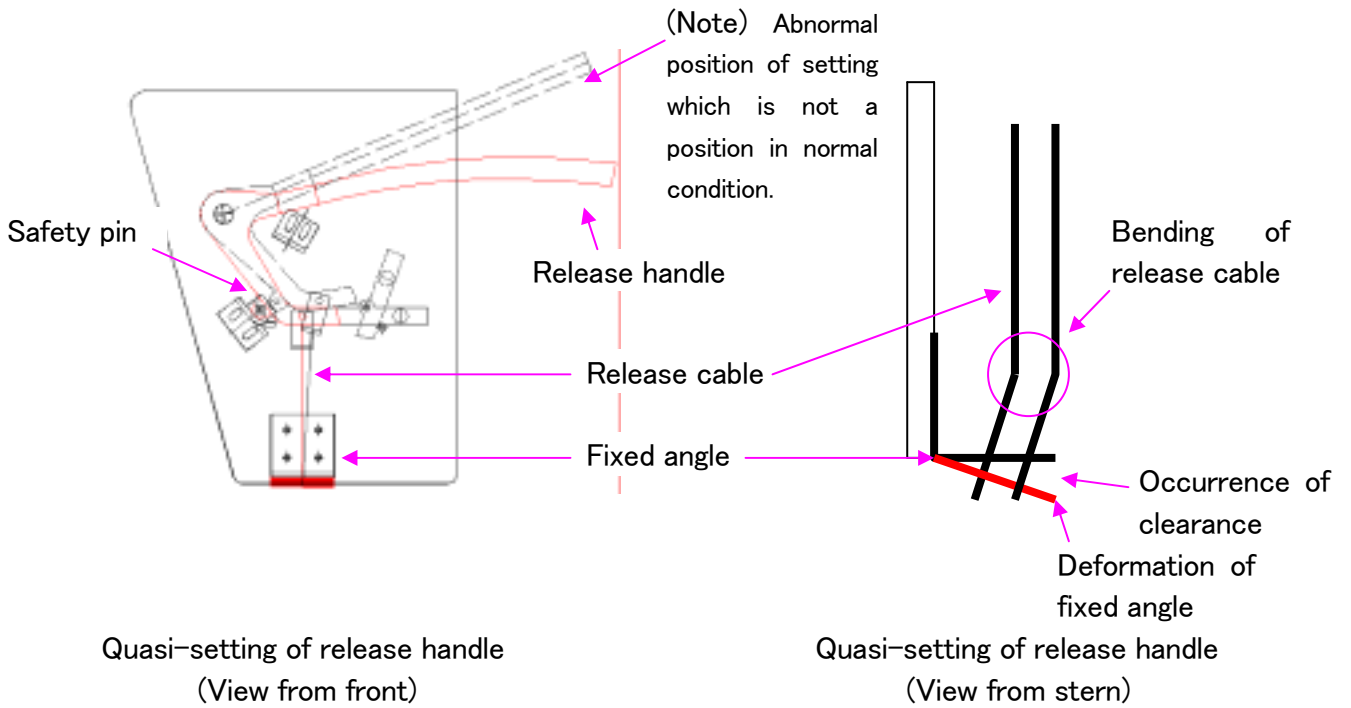
Bending of release cable



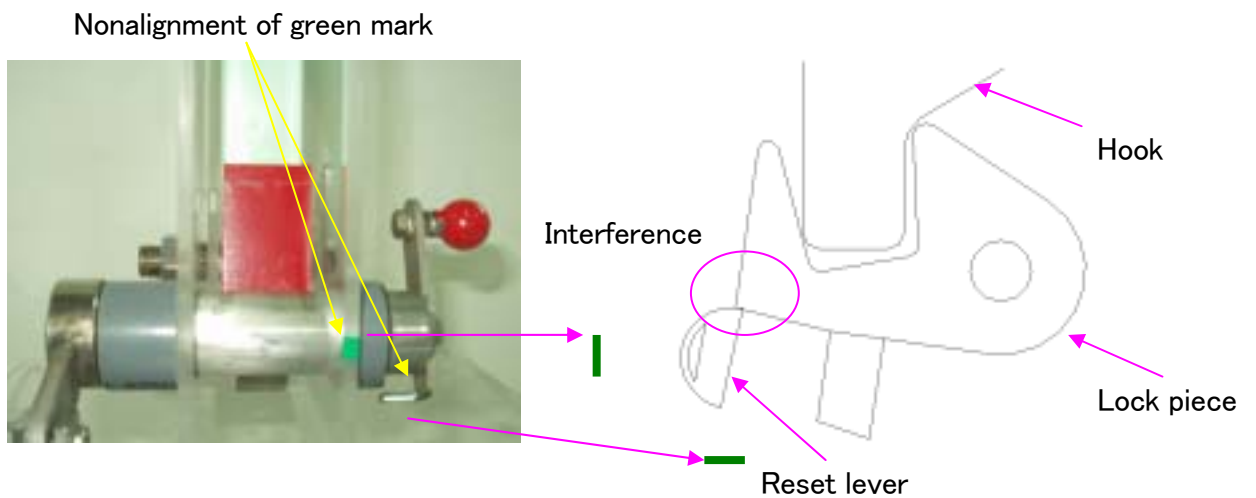
Deformation of fixed angle

Picture 3

3. In case that bending of release cable and deformation of fixed angle occur, excess clearance arises in release cable. As a result, release handle can be set in a wrong position due to the excess clearance and is misunderstood as if it were a proper release handle setting not observed normally.



4. Insufficient setting can be judged by nonalignment of indication mark (green mark) on the hook.



5. In case that hook is set in the condition of 4, falling accident of lifeboat occurs at the time of pulling up and pulling down of lifeboat due to hook opening by releasing lock piece from reset lever.