

Single fall and hook system used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat - Interpretation of the LSA Code as amended by MSC.320(89) and MSC.81(70) as amended by MSC.321(89)

Regulation

Paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code states:

“Where a single fall and hook system is used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat in combination with a suitable painter, the requirements of paragraphs 4.4.7.6.7, 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15 need not be applicable; in such an arrangement a single capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat, only when it is fully waterborne, will be adequate.”

MSC/Circ.980 Add.2 states the following two exemptions in the rescue boat test section:

“Single fall systems not intended for on-load operation are exempt from this test [MSC.81(70) Part1/6.9.1-2].”

“This test [MSC.81(70) Part1/6.9.4] is not applicable to single fall systems not intended for on-load operation.”

Interpretation

1. Paragraphs 4.4.7.6.7, 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15 of the LSA Code need not be applied when a single fall and hook system is used for launching a lifeboat or a rescue boat in combination with a suitable painter, and the hook system has a single capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat, only when it is fully waterborne (off-load).
2. The release mechanism tests 6.9.1, 6.9.2, 6.9.3 and 6.9.4 of MSC.81(70), Part 1, as amended, need not be applied for off-load only type release mechanisms on the basis of the exemption provided in paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code as amended by MSC.320(89).
3. In paragraph 6.9.5.1 of MSC.81(70), Part 1, as amended, the off-load type release mechanism shall be subject only to actuation force measurement. If a cable is used, it shall be of the maximum length specified by the manufacturer, and secured in the same manner it would be secured in a lifeboat or a rescue boat.

Note:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies for approvals issued in accordance with SOLAS III/34 and the LSA Code on or after 1 July 2017.

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4. A tensile strength test is to be performed for off-load type release as per paragraph 6.9.5.2 of MSC.81(70), Part 1, as amended.
5. The release mechanism may be installed either in the boat or on the davit fall.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 to 4 above, other single fall arrangements (i.e. on-load/off-load type) shall comply with all requirements of paragraph 4.4.7.6 of the LSA Code and be tested in accordance with paragraphs 6.9.1 to 6.9.5 of MSC.81(70), Part 1, as amended.

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