
No.39 Safe Use Of Rafts Or Boats For Survey

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/Complete
Revision)
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(Rev.3
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1. Access to Structures

- 1.1 For overall survey, means shall be provided to enable the attending surveyor(s) to examine the structure in a safe and practical way.
- 1.2 For close-up survey, one or more of the following means for access, acceptable to the attending surveyor(s), shall be provided:
- a) permanent staging and passages through structures
 - b) temporary staging and passages through structures
 - c) lifts and moveable platforms
 - d) rafts or boats
 - e) other equivalent means.
- 1.3 Surveys of tanks or spaces by means of rafts or boats may only be undertaken with the agreement of the attending surveyor(s), who shall take into account the safety arrangements provided, including weather forecasting and ship response in reasonable sea conditions.
- 1.4 When rafts or boats will be used for close-up survey the following conditions shall be observed:
- a) Only rough duty, inflatable rafts or boats, having satisfactory residual buoyancy and stability even if one chamber is ruptured, shall be used;
 - b) The boat or raft shall be tethered to the access ladder and an additional person shall be stationed down the access ladder with a clear view of the boat or raft;
 - c) Appropriate lifejackets shall be available for all participants;
 - d) The surface of water in the tank shall be calm (under all foreseeable conditions the expected rise of water within the tank shall not exceed 0.25 m) and the water level stationary. On no account shall the level of the water be rising while the boat or raft is in use;
 - e) The tank or space must contain clean ballast water only.

When a thin sheen of oil on the water is observed, further testing of the atmosphere is to be done to ensure that the tank or space is safe for entering;

Further reference is made to IACS Recommendation No. 72 "Confined Space Safe Practice".

- f) At no time shall the upside of the boat or raft be allowed to be within 1 m of the deepest under deck web face flat so that the survey team is not isolated from a direct escape route to the tank hatch. Filling to levels above the deck transverses shall only be contemplated if a deck access manhole is fitted and open in the bay being examined, so that an escape route for the survey party is available at all times;

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- g) If the tanks (or spaces) are connected by a common venting system, or inert gas system, the tank in which the boat or raft is to be used shall be isolated to prevent a transfer of gas from other tanks (or spaces).
- 1.5 In addition to the above, rafts or boats alone may be allowed for close-up survey of the under deck areas for tanks or spaces if the depth of the webs are 1.5 m or less. If the depth of the webs is more than 1.5 m, rafts or boats alone may be allowed only.
- a) When the coating of the under deck structure is in GOOD condition and there is no evidence of wastage; or
- b) If a permanent means of access is provided in each bay to allow safe entry and exit. This means:
- i. access direct from the deck via a vertical ladder and a small platform fitted approximately 2 m below the deck in each bay; or
 - ii. access to deck from a longitudinal permanent platform having ladders to deck in each end of the tank. The platform shall, for the full length of the tank, be arranged in level with, or above, the maximum water level needed for rafting of under deck structure. For this purpose, the ullage corresponding to the maximum water level is to be assumed not more than 3m from the deck plate measured at the midspan of deck transverses and in the middle length of the tank. (See Figure 1).

If neither of the above conditions are met, then staging or an "other equivalent means" is to be provided for the survey of the under deck areas.

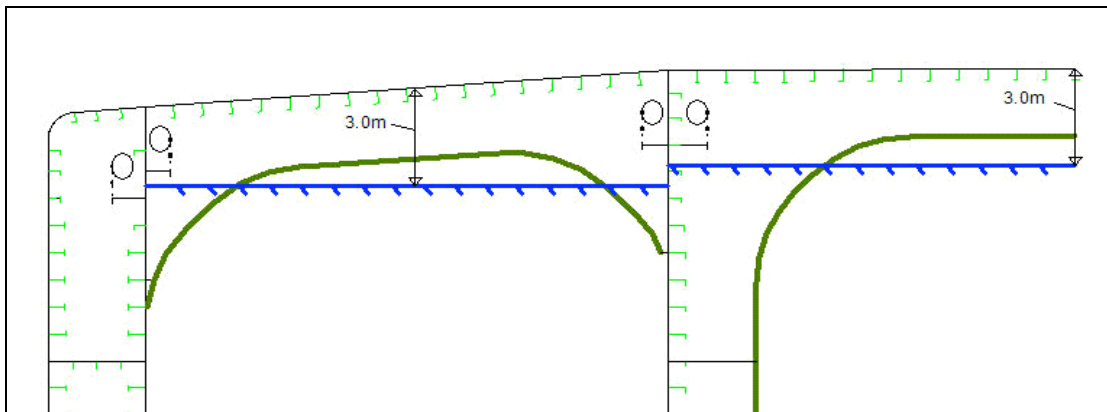


Figure 1

Note: Item 1.5 is a mandatory IACS unified requirement (UR Z10s).

2.0 Safety Meetings

2.1 The establishment of proper preparation and the close co-operation between the attending surveyor(s) and the company's representatives onboard prior to and during the survey are an essential part in the safe and efficient conduct of the survey.

2.2 Applicable safety procedures and responsibilities shall be discussed and agreed to ensure that the survey is carried out under controlled conditions.

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Safety Meetings shall be held prior to entering the tank or space and regularly during the survey on board.

Further reference is made to IACS Recommendation No.72 Confined Space Safe Practice.

3.0 Communication Arrangements and Equipment for Survey

3.1 The attending surveyor(s) shall always be accompanied by at least one responsible person assigned by the company experienced in tank and enclosed spaces inspection. In addition a backup team of at least two experienced persons shall be stationed at the hatch opening of the tank or space that is being surveyed. The back-up team shall continuously observe the work in the tank or space and shall keep lifesaving and evacuation equipment ready for use.

3.2 A communication system shall be arranged between the survey party in the tank or space being examined, the responsible officer on deck, the navigation bridge and the personnel in charge of handling the ballast pump(s) in the pump control room. These communication arrangements shall be maintained throughout the survey.

3.3 Adequate and safe lighting shall be provided for the safe and efficient conduct of the survey.

3.4 Adequate protective clothing shall be made available and used (e.g. safety helmet, gloves, safety shoes, etc) during the survey.

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