

# SC 247 Emergency exit hatches to open deck (SOLAS Reg. II-2/13.1)

(Sept 2011)

## SOLAS Reg. II-2/13.1 Purpose

*The purpose of this regulation is to provide means of escape so that persons on board can safely and swiftly escape to the lifeboat and liferaft embarkation deck. For this purpose, the following functional requirements shall be met:*

- .1 safe escape routes shall be provided;*
- .2 escape routes shall be maintained in a safe condition, clear of obstacles; and*
- .3 additional aids for escape shall be provided as necessary to ensure accessibility, clear marking, and adequate design for emergency situations.*

## Interpretation

To facilitate a swift and safe means of escape to the lifeboat and liferaft embarkation deck, the following provisions apply to overhead hatches fitted along the escape routes addressed by Reg. II-2/13:

1. the securing devices shall be of a type which can be opened from both sides;
2. the maximum force needed to open the hatch cover should not exceed 150 N; and
3. the use of a spring equalizing, counterbalance or other suitable device on the hinge side to reduce the force needed for opening is acceptable.

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## Notes

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2012.
2. The "contracted for construction" date means the date on which the contract to build the vessel is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. For further details regarding the date of "contract for construction", refer to IACS Procedural Requirement (PR) No. 29.

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