

SC 254

Fall Preventer Devices (MSC.1/Circ.1392 and Circ.1327)

(April
2012)

MSC.1/Circ.1392, Paragraph 4

Member Governments are strongly urged to ensure that all ships which are fitted with on-load release systems for lifeboats, are equipped with fall preventer devices as per paragraph 6 of these Guidelines at the earliest opportunity.

MSC.1/Circ.1392, Annex Paragraph 6

On each ship, fall preventer devices in accordance with the Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs) (MSC.1/Circ.1327) should be employed for each existing lifeboat release and retrieval system

MSC.1/Circ.1327, Paragraph 2

The use of FPDs should be considered as an interim risk mitigation measure, only to be used in connection with existing on-load release hooks, at the discretion of the master, pending the wide implementation of improved hook designs with enhanced safety features.

Interpretation

Where locking pins are provided as a FPD, the pins shall be designed so that they have a minimum factor of safety of 6 as per LSA Code Paragraph 6.1.1.6. Where existing on-load release hooks are drilled to provide a locking pin insertion point, the strength of the hooks shall continue to satisfy the relevant requirements in the LSA Code and MSC 81(70), Part.2 section 5.3.1 and shall comply with the requirements of MSC.1/Circ.1327 paragraph 2.1. The modification of the hook in this respect must be acceptable to the manufacturer of the hook.

Where strops or slings with fittings (with fittings e.g. shackles) are used as a FPD, they shall be approved against the following test requirements:

- (i) Environment tests as set out in MSC 81(70) Part 1, Paragraphs 1.2.1 or equivalent.
- (ii) Tests for rot-proof, colour-fast and resistant to deterioration from exposure to sunlight and that they are not unduly affected by seawater, oil or fungal attack as set out in MSC 81(70) Part 1, Paragraphs 2.4 or equivalent.
- (iii) Prototype test to a factor of safety of 6.
- (iv) A factory acceptance test of 2.2 x SWL.

NOTE

This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies for the approval of FPDs submitted on or after 1 January 2013.

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Note: the factor of safety shall be based upon the SWL, which shall be not less than the total weight of the lifeboat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment.

It is the responsibility of the lifeboat and davit manufacturer, to confirm that the attachment eye is suitable for the use of the proposed FPD. If the lifeboat and/or davit manufacturer is no longer available, the suitability is to be determined by an independent service provider.

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