

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP SYSTEMS AND
EQUIPMENT
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Agenda item 12

SSE 5/12
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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF IMO SAFETY, SECURITY, AND
ENVIRONMENT-RELATED CONVENTIONS**

IACS Unified Interpretation relating to SOLAS regulation III/20.11

Submitted by IACS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The annex to this document provides a copy of the latest version of IACS unified interpretation SC144 regarding maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and releasing gear, subsequent to the amendments to SOLAS regulation III/20.11 as adopted by resolution MSC.404(96)

Strategic direction: 1.1

High-level action: 1.1.2

Output: 1.1.2.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 8

Related documents: SSE 1/17/15 and SSE 1/21 (paragraphs 17.14 and 17.15)

Introduction

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its ninety-sixth session, adopted the *Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear* (resolution MSC.402(96)).

2 At the same session, the Committee also adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation III/20.11 (resolution MSC.404(96)) to mandate the application of the requirements contained in resolution MSC.402(96) as well as to enhance clarity in respect of the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and releasing gear. Such amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2020.

3 To take due account of the amendments to SOLAS regulation III/20.11, as adopted by resolution MSC.404(96), IACS has developed revision 3 of its unified interpretation (UI) SC144. The changes incorporated in this latest version of the UI are in relation to the text of the referenced regulation and the interpretation will remain the same, with some minor editorial improvements.

4 SSE 1 noted that the Committee would adopt the above-mentioned resolutions at its ninety-third session and, therefore, the Sub-Committee did not take any action (SSE 1/21, paragraphs 17.14 and 17.15) regarding a previous revision of IACS UI SC144, as submitted in document SSE 1/17/15. In light of the foregoing, the annex to this document provides a copy of revision 3 of IACS UI SC144. Noting the discussion at SSE 1 (SSE 1/21, paragraph 17.14.2), the Sub-Committee is invited to note that adopted resolution MSC.402(96) now clarifies the matter of the different options for service providers.

5 Revision 3 of IACS UI SC144 is consistent with, and reinforces, the provisions in the *Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems* (MSC.1/Circ.1392) calling for the recognized organizations to witness the associated testing. For thorough examinations, overhauls and operational tests, carried out at intervals of at least once every five years, the UI clarifies that these activities should be done in the presence of the surveyor in order to verify that the relevant equipment has been maintained and tested satisfactorily.

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to note that IACS' members will implement the annexed revision 3 of UI SC144 from 1 January 2020, unless they are provided with written instructions to implement a different interpretation by the Administration on whose behalf they are authorized to act as a recognized organization.

7 Finally, if the Sub-Committee agrees to the revised UI SC144, it is suggested that the III Sub-Committee should be invited to take the revised UI SC144 into account as part of the work to update the *Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification* (HSSC), 2015.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

8 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider:

- .1 the foregoing;
- .2 the copy of the revised IACS UI SC144, as set out in the annex, and its implementation provisions, as explained in paragraph 6 above; and
- .3 the suggestion made in paragraph 7 above,

and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX

Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats, Rescue Boats and Fast Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear

SOLAS Regulation III/20.11 reads:

11.1. *Launching appliances shall be:*

- .2 *upon completion of the examination referred to in paragraph 11.1.1, subjected to a dynamic test of the winch brake at maximum lowering speed. The load to be applied shall be the mass of the survival craft or rescue boat without persons on board, except that, at intervals of at least once every five years, the test shall be carried out with a proof load equal to 1.1 times the weight of the survival craft or rescue boat and its full complement of persons and equipment.*

11.2. *Lifeboat and rescue boat release gear, including fast rescue boat release gear and free-fall lifeboat release systems, shall be:*

- .2 *in case of on-load release gear, operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the boat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment whenever the release gear is overhauled. Such overhauling and operational test shall be carried out at least once every five years.*
- .3 *notwithstanding paragraph 11.2.2, the operational testing of free-fall lifeboat release systems shall be performed either by free fall launch with only the operating crew on board or by a test without launching the lifeboat carried out based on Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair.*

11.3. *Davit-launched liferaft automatic release hooks shall be:*

- .2 *operationally tested under a load of 1.1 times the total mass of the liferaft when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment whenever the automatic release hook is overhauled. Such overhauling and operational test shall be carried out at least once every five years.*

Interpretation

The thorough examinations/overhauls and operational tests, carried out at intervals of at least once every five years, shall be done in the presence of a surveyor.

Note:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by all Members and associates from 1 July 1999, unless otherwise instructed by a Flag State.

SC
144
(1999)
(Rev.1
Nov.1999)
(Rev.2
Sept 2012)
(Rev.3
Oct 2017)

2. Changes introduced in Rev.1 are to be applied from 1 July 1999.
3. Changes introduced in Rev.2 are to be applied from 1 January 2013.
4. Changes introduced in Rev.3 are to be applied from 1 January 2020.

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