

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
EQUIPMENT
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Agenda item 3

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CONSIDERATION OF IACS UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS

Load testing of hooks intended for the primary release of lifeboats (resolution MSC.81(70) Part 2, chapter 5.3.4)

Submitted by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document takes into account the discussion at DE 56 of DE 56/13/1 (IACS) and provides in the annex a revision to IACS Unified Interpretation SC 244 relating to chapter 5.3.4 of Part 2 of resolution MSC.81(70) on load testing of hooks intended for the primary release of lifeboats and rescue boats

Strategic direction: 1.1

High-level action: 1.1.2

Planned output: 1.1.2.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: DE 53/26; DE 56/13/1 and DE 56/25

Introduction

1 The Sub-Committee, at its fifty-sixth session, considered document DE 56/13/1 (IACS), which provided in the annex a copy of IACS Unified Interpretation (UI SC 244) relating to chapter 5.3.4 of part 2 of the Revised Recommendation on testing of LSA (resolution MSC.81(70)) on load testing of hooks intended for the primary release of lifeboats.

2 During the discussion at DE 56, IACS recalls concerns were raised that the IACS UI did not address rescue boats and only referred to the primary release mechanism (paragraph 13.5 of document DE 56/25). Those voicing these concerns noted that paragraph 5.3.4 of the LSA Code applied to primary and secondary means of launching.

Discussion

3 IACS has reviewed the comments made at DE 56 and has revised UI SC 244. A copy of the revised version is provided in the annex to this document. The revised version provides that the load testing of hooks for primary release now includes rescue boats. IACS

notes that this is in line with the new paragraph 5.3.4 of Part 2 of the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), as amended by resolution MSC.226(82).

4 However, with respect to the concerns raised at DE 56 that UI SC 244 should apply to both primary and secondary means of launching, IACS draws the Sub-Committee's attention to paragraph 17.10 of document DE 53/26 where it was concluded that:

"... the relevant provisions of the Revised recommendation [paragraph 5.3.4 of the LSA Code] only apply to lifeboats launched by falls and not to free-fall lifeboats. Consequently, the Sub-Committee invited IACS to take these comments into account when finalizing the interpretation."

5 Based on paragraph 4, above, and recognizing that only free-fall lifeboats have secondary means of launching, IACS remains of the view that UI SC 244 should apply to primary means of launching and not to any secondary means of launching. Accordingly, IACS UI SC 244 has been revised to explicitly exempt the on-load testing of hooks associated with secondary means of launching to be tested.

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to note that IACS Societies will apply the attached revised version of IACS UI SC 244 on ships the keels of which are laid from 1 January 2014, unless otherwise instructed by the Administration on whose behalf they are authorized to act as recognized organizations.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to:

- .1 note that IACS UI SC 244 has been revised to extend the load testing of hooks for primary release to rescue boats;
- .2 note that IACS UI SC 244 has been revised for the reason provided in paragraphs 4 and 5, above, so that it remains applicable to primary means of launching and not to any secondary means of launching; and
- .3 consider paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 above and decide as appropriate.

ANNEX

LOAD TESTING OF HOOKS FOR PRIMARY RELEASE OF LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS (RESOLUTION MSC.81(70), PART 2, PARAGRAPH 5.3.4)

Regulation

"5.3.4 The connection of each release gear which is fixed to the boat should be subjected to a load equal to the weight of the boat with its full complement of persons and equipment (or two times the weight of the boat in the case of single fall systems). There should be no damage to the release gear or its connection to the boat."

Interpretation

- 1 The above regulation applies only to lifeboats and rescue boats launched by falls.
 - 2 The test does not apply to the secondary means of launching for free-fall lifeboats.
 - 3 The test may be carried out on board the ship or on shore, either at the manufacturer's plant or at the shipyard, by using an appropriate mock-up of the launching arrangements which is equivalent to the launching arrangement installed on board the ship.
 - 4 The weight of the boat to be considered for the load in the case of single fall systems is the weight of the boat with its full complement of persons and equipment.
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Notes:

- 1 This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships the keels of which are laid from 1 July 2012.
- 2 Rev.1 of this UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships the keels of which are laid from 1 January 2014.