



MEANS OF EMBARKATION ON AND DISEMBARKATION FROM SHIPS

Technical Notice SLS.18

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

Reference is made to Regulation 3-9 of Chapter II-1 of SOLAS 74, as amended, and MSC.1/Circ.1331.

Unless expressly stated otherwise herein, the guidance contained in MSC.1/Circ.1331 should be taken into account.

Means of embarkation and disembarkation on all ships shall be periodically inspected, maintained and surveyed in accordance with the aforementioned circular.

1 Construction Standards

- 1.1 Accommodation ladders and gangways for installation onboard ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010 shall conform to the standards specified in MSC.1/Circ.1331. Such accommodation ladders and gangways shall be in possession of a Statement of Conformity issued by the shipyard or the manufacturer.
- 1.2 Replacement accommodation ladders and gangways for use on ships constructed before 1 January 2010 should comply with the guidance contained in MSC.1/Circ.1331 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 1.3 In the context of spacing of steps in accommodation ladders this Administration accepts steps with a spacing of between 300 to 350mm measured tangentially to the step noses.

2 Monthly Maintenance and Inspection

Monthly maintenance and inspection of the accommodation ladders, gangways, associated winches and ancillary fittings may be carried out by the ship's crew in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

3 Annual Thorough Examination

During the annual surveys required by SOLAS Regulations I/7 and I/8, the items identified in MSC.1/Circ.1331 should be thoroughly examined for satisfactory condition.

4 Five-Yearly Survey

- 4.1 For ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010 the first five-yearly survey should be carried out in conjunction with the delivery of the ship and thereafter in conjunction with the Class Renewal Survey.



- 4.2 For ships constructed before 1 January 2010 the first five-yearly survey should be carried out at the first scheduled Class Renewal Survey on or after 1 January 2010;
 - 4.3 At every five yearly survey, following the satisfactory completion of the scheduled annual thorough examination, the accommodation ladder, gangway and winch shall be subjected to an operational test with the specified maximum operational load.
 - 4.4 In instances where maximum load is unknown, the maximum allowed distributed load should be established by loading the accommodation ladder or gangway until the maximum allowable deflection is reached. The maximum distributed load is to be limited to 735 N/step for accommodation ladders and 4000N/m² for gangways;
 - 4.5 The established maximum distributed load should be used in the static test of the accommodation ladder arrangement, including the suspension arrangement and holding capacity of the winch.
- 5 Length of Accommodation Ladders
- 5.1 Notwithstanding Paragraph 3.4.1 of MSC.1/Circ.1331, for ships constructed or after 1 January 2010 the required length of accommodation ladders shall be determined on the basis of the actual ballast arrival condition of the ship in lieu of the lightship condition as defined in SOLAS Regulation III/3.13.
 - 5.2 For ships constructed before 1 January 2010 the length of accommodation ladders should not be subject to verification unless, for safety reasons, the arrangement warrants otherwise.
- 6 Records
- 6.1 On all ships records of inspections, maintenance and repair of each appliance should be maintained and be readily available on board for inspection. The records should contain, as a minimum, the information outlined in MSC.1/Circ.1331 (Ref. Para. 4.6)
 - 6.2 The record-keeping obligation should be appropriately addressed within the ship's Safety Management System.