



Merchant Shipping Directorate



LAUNCH TEST OF RESCUE BOAT

Technical Notice SLS.24

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

The Directorate refers to Resolution MSC.81(70), Part 2, Paragraph 5.4, that *inter alia*, states that *it should be demonstrated that the fully equipped lifeboat on cargo ships of 20,000 gross tons or more and rescue boat can be launched from a ship proceeding ahead at a speed of not less than 5 knots in calm water and on an even keel. There should be no damage to the lifeboat or the rescue boat or their equipment as a result of this test.*

In addition to the above production and installation test, Regulation 17.3 of Chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended prescribes a launch test whereby *all rescue boats shall be capable of being launched, where necessary utilizing painters, with the ship making headway at speeds up to 5 knots in calm water.*

For ships built according to the same plans and with identical rescue boat(s) and launching arrangement(s) installed, the successful results from the launch test at 5 knots headway speed for the lead ship are acceptable as documented evidence of the ability to similarly launch the rescue boat(s) from the sister ship(s) in the series. The Recognized Organization, after having verified that the aforementioned requisites are fulfilled, may proceed with documenting accordingly the waiver from the launch test for the sister ship(s).

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