



Merchant Shipping Directorate



LIFTING APPLIANCES AND ANCHOR HANDLING WINCHES

Technical Notice SLS. 40

*Notice to Ship-owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognized Organizations*

This notice revokes Technical Notice IRO.3

This Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13, as adopted by IMO Resolution MSC.532(107), IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1696 and the associated IMO Guidelines MSC.1/Circ.1662 and MSC.1/Circ.1663.

Lifting appliances with a safe working load (SWL) of 1,000kg and above and Anchor handling winches are to be examined, tested and certified in accordance with all applicable regulations. Load testing and thorough examination shall be carried out by a Recognised Organisation listed in [Merchant Shipping Notice 96 Rev.4](#).

A thorough examination is to be carried out during the annual surveys in accordance with SOLAS Regulations I/7 or I/10, as applicable. Lifting appliances to which SOLAS Regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and 3-13.2.4 apply, should be retested at least once in every five years.

Unless specified, all loose gear which is not permanently fixed to the ship's structure by welding or bolts and is of non-permanent installation, shall not fall under the requirements of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13. Non-permanent loose gear includes mono-rail trolleys in machinery spaces, portable chain blocks and any article which is of a non-permanent fixed installation, and which does not form an integral part of the appliance, winch or load. Furthermore, Paragraphs 2.1 and 2.4 of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13 shall not apply to lifting appliances with a SWL of less than 1,000 kg.

Nevertheless, procedures for maintenance, inspection and operational testing, including record keeping for all non-permanently fixed/installed loose gear and lifting appliances with a SWL of less than 1,000 kg are to be duly established and maintained in the vessel's onboard Safety Management System (SMS), taking into account the relevant IMO Guidelines.

Except as provided in SOLAS Reg. I/11(c), while all reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure that lifting appliances, anchor handling winches and loose gear remain in serviceable condition, any malfunction of such equipment shall not be automatically assumed to render the vessel unseaworthy or as grounds for delaying the vessel in ports, provided that action has been taken by the master to take the inoperative equipment into account in planning and executing a safe voyage, in line with the applicable IMO Guidelines.

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