

Unified Interpretation for Launching Appliances for Rescue Boats

Object of Amendment

Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

Although paragraph 6.1.1.3 of the International Life-Saving Appliance code (LSA Code) stipulates that the launching appliances for rescue boats shall not depend on any means other than stored mechanical power which is independent of the ship, it also stipulates that launching appliances meeting certain conditions need not comply with this requirement.

In addition, paragraph 6.1.2.2 of the LSA Code stipulates that launching mechanisms shall be arranged so that they may be actuated by a single person both from a position on the ship's deck and from within rescue boats. The above-mentioned requirements have already been incorporated into the NK Rules and Guidance.

At the 9th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE9), it was pointed out that 6.1.1.3 and 6.1.2.2 were both unclear regarding the powering of launching appliances and the operating locations of launching mechanisms.

The IMO discussed the matter and confirmed that the manual hoisting up (i.e. without mechanical power) of rescue boats not also being used as survival craft is acceptable. In addition, the IMO confirmed that launching mechanisms not fitted with stored mechanical power are not required to be actuated from within such a boat.

The above were agreed upon as a unified interpretation at the 11th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE11) held in February 2025, and this unified interpretation is expected to be adopted at the 110th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC110) scheduled to be held in June 2025.

Accordingly, relevant requirements are amended based on the unified interpretation agreed upon at SSE11 and expected to be adopted at MSC110.

Outline of Amendment

Adds requirements related to hoisting from a stored position and the operating locations of launching mechanisms not fitted with stored mechanical power for cargo ship rescue boats not also being used as survival craft.

Effective Date and Application

Effective date of this amendment is 1 January 2026.

ID:DX25-06

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table (Unified Interpretation for Launching Appliances for Rescue Boats)

Amended	Original	Remarks
<p align="center">GUIDANCE FOR SAFETY EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Chapter 3 ARRANGEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE</p> <p>3.1 General</p> <p>3.1.1 General (-1 to -25 are omitted.)</p> <p><u>26 For cargo ships, hoisting up of a dedicated rescue boat from its stowed position is to be considered as part of launching preparation. Therefore, in the application of 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code, manual hoisting up prior to embarkation may be acceptable for subsequent slewing out.</u></p> <p><u>27 In the application of 6.1.2.2 of the LSA Code, for cargo ships not fitted with stored mechanical power in compliance with 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code, the manual hoisting from the stowed position and turning out to the embarkation position of the rescue boat does not need to be actuated from a position within the rescue boat.</u></p> <p><u>28 In the application of 6.1.2.2 of the LSA Code, for cargo ships, manual hoisting up of a dedicated rescue boat prior to embarkation may be acceptable for subsequent slewing out by stored mechanical power.</u></p>	<p align="center">GUIDANCE FOR SAFETY EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Chapter 3 ARRANGEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE</p> <p>3.1 General</p> <p>3.1.1 General (-1 to -25 are omitted.) (Newly added)</p> <p>(Newly added)</p> <p>(Newly added)</p>	<p>SSE11/20 Annex 9</p> <p>SSE11/20 Annex 9</p> <p>SSE11/20 Annex 9</p>
<p align="center">EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION</p> <p>1. The effective date of the amendments is 1 January 2026.</p>		