

Port State Control – Information Notice No.4 of 2009

The purpose of this notice is to advise shipowners, operators, managers and Masters of Isle of Man registered ships of the following;

Early Notification of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) with respect to SOLAS – Chapter III Lifeboats

This CIC will start on 1 September 2009 and end on 30 November 2009 and the purpose is to verify that the effectiveness of lifeboats and associated launching arrangements are well maintained, that the crew are aware of the maintenance requirements and of the dangers of launching and recovering lifeboats (MSC.1 Circ 1206).

Please note that SOLAS Chapter III, Section IV Regulation 34 states that all life saving appliances and arrangements shall comply with the applicable requirements of the Life Saving Appliances Code (LSA Code); and Chapter VI, Paragraph 6.1.1.4 of the Code states that each launching appliance shall be so constructed that only a minimum amount of routine maintenance is necessary. All parts requiring regular maintenance by the ship's crew shall be readily accessible and easily maintained.

It is not expected that a PSCO will require a full lifeboat drill be carried out during every CIC inspection, although it will be necessary to lower at least one boat to some extent to check the davit and winch brake operation.

The PSCO will be required to collect the hook manufacturer's name and date of manufacture and enter these particulars onto the CIC questionnaire.

Where deficiencies are found then these should be recorded on the associated PSC form B. Questions 13 and 14 relate to the design of the on-load release to comply with SOLAS and the LSA Code. Questions 11 and 15 are designed to determine whether issues relating to the release arrangements are primarily operational, design or maintenance related. These questions are aimed at gathering information for feed back to the IMO regarding their work on accidents with lifeboats.

In cases where there is an obvious non-compliance with either SOLAS and / or the LSA Code then deficiencies should be issued under PSC on the Report of Inspection referring the issue to the flag state or Recognised Organisation issuing the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate.

The CIC "checkbox" should be ticked on the Report of Inspection. The questionnaire is arranged as follows;

- Questions 2 to 5 Maintenance and Records
- Questions 6 to 9 Operational Safety
- Questions 10 to 16 On-load release systems
- Questions 17 to 19 Davits and Winches
- Question 20 Drill, and
- Question 21 Detention

A copy of the CIC questionnaire is attached for your information

CIC on Lifeboat Launching Arrangements – Questionnaire

Ship's name	
IMO Number	
	Port:
On load release manufacturer & model number	
On load release date of manufacturer	
On load release date of last service	
	Starboard:
On load release manufacturer & model number	
On load release date of manufacturer	
On load release date of last service	

		Yes	No	N/A
1	Does the ship have davit launched lifeboats? ¹			
	Maintenance and Records			
2	Do records indicate that lifeboats have been launched and manoeuvred in the water in accordance with SOLAS requirements? (2025)			
3*	Do records indicate that the 1.1 dynamic load tests of the winch brake have been carried out? (0696) ²			
4*	Do records indicate that launching arrangements (falls, lifeboats, on-load release and davits) are regularly maintained? (0696)			
5*	Are the means of attaching the lifeboat hook assemblies to the lifeboat in a satisfactory condition? (0696) ²			
	Operational Safety			
6	Have hazards associated with the launching and recovery of lifeboats been identified (ISM)? (2535)			
7	Are any procedures or instructions implemented on-board relating to the hazards identified in Question 6? (2535)			
8*	Are all key personnel familiar with the procedures for the launch and recovery of lifeboats? (0695)			
9	Is the crew familiar with relevant IMO documentation and guidance including MSC Circulars 1205 and 1206? (0695)			
	On Load Releases			
10	Are on load releases fitted? ³			
11*	Can the ships crew describe an understanding of the operation of the on-load release, including interlocks as appropriate? (0695)			
12	Are clear operating instructions for use of the on-load release, in the working language of the ship, provided with a suitably worded warning notice? (2055)			
13	Is the release mechanism designed so that the crew members in the lifeboat can clearly observe when the release mechanism is properly and completely reset and ready for lifting? (0630)			
14	Is the release control clearly marked in a colour that contrasts with its surroundings? (0630)			
15*	Does it appear that the hooks and release arrangements including and interlocks are correctly set? (0630)			

16*	Does it appear that the lifeboat on-load release mechanisms are in a satisfactory condition? (0696)			
	Davits and Winches			
17*	Does it appear that the davits and winches are in a satisfactory condition? (0696)			
18*	Do all the sheaves and other moving parts, including limit switches, operate correctly? (0696)			
19*	Is the centrifugal winch brake operating satisfactorily in "freefall" mode and the manual brake automatically re-applying upon release? (0630)			
	Drill			
20*	If conducted, was a drill performed satisfactorily? (if not conducted enter N/A) (2025)			
	Detention			
21	Was the ship detained as a result of this CIC Inspection?			

If a "no" answer is selected for questions marked with * the PSCOs should use their professional judgement to determine whether the vessel should be considered for detention

- ¹ For freefall lifeboats answer "no"
For ships with lifeboats answer "N/A" and also answer questions 2 – 19 "N/A"
- ² For freefall lifeboats answer "N/A"
- ³ If on-load releases are not fitted questions 11 to 16 should be answered "N/A"

Note:- It should be made clear to the Master that any operation involving the lifeboats is to be conducted under his/her control. It is important that the PSCO does not become involved in any operation or assume any responsibility

References:-

- MSC.1 Circular 1205 - Guidelines for Developing Operation and Maintenance Manuals for Lifeboat Systems
- MSC.1 Circular 1206 – Measures to prevent Accidents with Lifeboats
- MSC.1 Circular 1206 Rev.1 – Measures to prevent Accidents with Lifeboats - (issued 11th June 2009)
- MSC.1 Circular 1207 – Early Implementation of SOLAS Regulation III 19.3.3.4.
- SOLAS Amendments where applicable
- Life Saving Appliances Code (LSA Code) – latest edition

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