

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice

Towing and Mooring equipment

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1. Introduction

To enhance the safety of seafarers during mooring operations, new regulations pertaining to towing and mooring equipment have been developed by the Maritime Safety Committee.

Operators are advised to take note of these upcoming changes and ensure that they have established the necessary maintenance plans, procedures, and records prior to their implementation. The full text of resolution [MSC.474\(102\)](#) should be consulted for further information.

2. Timeline & Application

The new requirements will become effective on January 1, 2024. The regulations apply to some extent to all SOLAS ships with some regulations depending up on the ship's date of construction, as explained below. At the present time these amendments are not applied to the Red Ensign Yacht Code and hence do not currently apply to commercial yachts.

These regulations do not cover emergency towing arrangements.

3. Key Requirements for all Ships

- Mooring equipment (including lines), must be inspected and maintained in a suitable condition for their intended purpose [MSC.1/Circ. 1620](#).

4. Key Requirements for Ships Constructed on or After 1 January 2007

- Arrangements, equipment and fittings provided to enable towing and mooring operations associated with the normal operation of the ship shall meet the requirements of [MSC.1/Circ.1175](#) for ships constructed on or after 1 January 2007 but before 1 January 2024 or [MSC.1/Circ.1175/Rev.1](#) for ships constructed on or after 1 January 2024.
- Each fitting or item of equipment shall be clearly marked with any limitations associated with its safe operation, taking into account the strength of the supporting ship's structure and its attachment to it.

5. Key Requirements for Ships Constructed on or after 1 January 2024

- For ships of 3,000GT and above, the mooring arrangement shall be designed, and the mooring equipment including lines shall be selected based on the guidelines in [MSC.1/Circ. 1619](#).
- Ships of less than 3,000GT should comply with the requirements above as far as reasonably practicable.

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

