

Isle of Man Ship Registry

Technical Advisory Notice

Shipboard Lifting Appliances

Ref. 009-23 (Rev. 3)

Issued: 16/06/2026

1. Introduction

This notice provides operators with guidance on the new requirements of SOLAS II-1 Regulation 3-13.

2. Timeline & Application

The requirements of Regulation 3-13 apply to all vessels subject to the requirements of SOLAS II-1.

The Regulation distinguishes between the following categories of lifting appliances:

- a) **New lifting appliances**, which means:
 - i. Any installation date of lifting appliances onboard ships for which the keel is laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2026 (see SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 2.33.1); or
 - ii. For ships other than those specified in i), the contractual delivery date for Lifting Appliances (or in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery date of the Lifting Appliance to the ship on or after 1 January 2026 (see SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 2.33.2), and
- b) **Existing lifting appliances**, which means appliances installed onboard any ship before 1 January 2026

The SOLAS requirements generally apply to some degree to all lifting appliances, anchor handling winches and loose gear utilised with them. Notwithstanding the above, the requirements do not apply to:

- Lifting appliances on Mobile Offshore Drilling Units;
- Offshore construction ships, such as pipe/cable laying/repair or offshore installation vessels, including ships for decommissioning work, that comply with existing standards of a Recognised Organisation given in MSN 020 or another standard acceptable to the Ship Registry
- Integrated mechanical equipment for opening and closing hold hatch covers; and
- Life-saving launching appliances complying with the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code

Regulation 3-13 allows the Ship Registry to determine to what extent to apply certain requirements to lifting appliances with a Safe Working Load (SWL) below 1,000kg.

The Ship Registry has determined that the Design, Construction and Installation requirements (excluding those relating to anchor handling winches and in respect of SWL i.e. 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5 of Regulation 3-13) do not need to comply with the new requirements and that these should continue to comply with the relevant aspects of the 1989 Merchant Shipping (Hatches, Hold Access and Lifting Plant) Regulations. Operators should additionally take account of the guidance contained within the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen (COSWOP) as published by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency for these appliances.



Lifting Appliances on Commercial Yachts should comply with the requirements of Common Annex O4 of the REG Yacht Code 2024.

Annex 1 to this notice provides a non-exhaustive list of types of appliance which should be considered within the scope of Regulation 3-13 and outside the scope.

3. Requirements for New Lifting Appliances

3.1 Design, construction and installation

New Lifting Appliances shall be:

- Designed, constructed and installed in accordance with the requirements of a Recognised Organisation noted in MSN 020 or alternative standards acceptable to the administration
- Load tested and thoroughly examined after installation and before being taken into use for the first time and after repairs, modifications or alterations of major character. Load testing and thorough examination shall be undertaken by a competent person, as defined in the [Masters Handbook](#). Alterations of major character are those which:
 - Change the SWL; or
 - Affect the strength, stability or service life of the lifting appliance; or
 - Affect the primary load bearing structure of the lifting appliance; or
 - Modify the functionality of the lifting appliance or any part thereof which may affect its safety or structural integrity

3.2 Safe working load

- New lifting appliances shall be permanently marked and provided with documentary evidence for the SWL.

4. Requirements for Existing Lifting Appliances

4.1 Design, construction and installation

Existing lifting appliances shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based upon the guidelines within MSC.1/Circ.1663 and comply with paragraph 2.3 no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026. Existing lifting appliances may be regarded as compliant with the SOLAS Chapter II-1 requirement when valid certificates of test and thorough examination have been issued prior to 1 January 2026 under another international instrument acceptable to the Ship Registry.

Existing lifting appliances shall additionally be clearly and permanently marked with the SWL in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1663 and be provided with documentary evidence of the SWL no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

Existing anchor handling winches shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based on the guidelines within MSC.1/Circ.1662 no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

5. Requirements for All Lifting Appliances

All lifting appliances and anchor handling winches, regardless of installation date, and all loose gear utilized with any lifting appliances and anchor handling winches, shall be operationally tested, thoroughly examined, inspected, operated and maintained, based on the Guidelines in MSC.1/Circ.1662 and MSC.1/Circ.1663 as applicable.

6. Inoperative lifting appliances and anchor handling winches

Provided that lifting equipment has been appropriately maintained, malfunctioning lifting equipment should not be cause for a deficiency or detention. Where a malfunction occurs, it is the duty of the master to mitigate any risks, mitigation practices may include:

- Taking into consideration the malfunctioning equipment when planning and executing a voyage;



- Ensuring that the equipment will not be operated or move uncontrollably;
- Marking the equipment as damaged;
- Storing any malfunctioning loose gear separately;
- Making a record of the damaged equipment in the register of ship's lifting appliances

7. Further reading

[Resolution MSC.532\(107\)](#)

[Guidelines for anchor handling winches \(MSC.1/Circ.1662\)](#)

[Guidelines for lifting appliances \(MSC.1/Circ.1663\)](#)

[REG Yacht Code Common Annex O4](#)

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.



Annex 1 – Guidance on Types of Appliances to Which SOLAS II-1 Regulation 3-13 Should Apply

Below is a non-exhaustive list of examples of lifting appliances for which the application of SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 3-13 should apply:

- All lifting appliances listed in SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 2.30;
- Cargo handling cranes;
- Derrick systems;
- Hatch cover gantry cranes (i.e. running on rails on deck);
- Lifting appliances installed in spaces categorized as engine rooms (see paragraph 5.5);
- Service cranes (e.g. bunker davits, bosun store davits);
- Car ramps and slope ways operating/moving with (pay) load on it;
- Movable decks operating/moving with (pay) load or cargo on it;
- Lifting platforms for cargo and/or personnel;
- Lifting appliance operating in open sea conditions;
- Monorail trolleys with hoist (permanently installed, i.e. hoist and trolley are unremovable);
- Personnel handling cranes (reference is made to paragraph 10 of this recommendation);
- Boom/arm of self-unloading equipment (excluding the conveyor system).

Below is a non-exhaustive list of examples of equipment for which the application of SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 3-13 should not apply:

- All equipment listed in SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 3-13.1.2;
- Any removable or portable crane; or any removable chain and rope hoist trolleys temporarily mounted on runway beams, i.e. arrangements that after their use are readily removable and are not intended to remain permanently in place;
- Lifting eyes (e.g. used in the engine room);
- Car ramps and slope ways operating/moving without (pay) load on it;
- Movable decks always operating/moving without (pay) load or cargo on it;
- Launch and recovery appliances for survival craft and rescue boats (under SOLAS Chapter III and LSA Code) unless dual use as per section 8 is applicable;
- Offshore cranes used on fixed offshore installations;
- Pipe laying or cable laying systems;
- Lifts/elevators and escalators;
- Shiplift and transfer systems;
- Personnel transfer systems (i.e. required to comply with the International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code));
- Conveyor systems.

