

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP SYSTEMS AND  
EQUIPMENT  
6th session  
Agenda item 13

SSE 6/13  
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**AMENDMENTS TO PARAGRAPH 4.4.7.6.17 OF THE LSA CODE CONCERNING  
SINGLE FALL AND HOOK SYSTEMS WITH ON-LOAD RELEASE CAPABILITY**

**Proposal for amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code**

**Submitted by the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, ICS, BIMCO, IFSMA, IMarEST  
InterManager, IPTA, RINA, IBIA and ITF**

**SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* The document proposes amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code in order to ensure adequate safety standards for lifeboats and rescue boats fitted with single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 6

*Output:* 6.14

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 7

*Related documents:* MSC 99/20/8, MSC 99/20/8/Add.1 and MSC 99/22

**Background**

1 MSC 99 considered documents MSC 99/20/8 and MSC 99/20/8/Add.1 (Marshall Islands et al.), proposing to amend paragraph 4.4.7.6 of the LSA Code in order to ensure adequate safety standards for lifeboats and rescue boats with single fall and hook systems, and agreed to include in the 2018-2019 biennial agenda of the SSE Sub-Committee and the provisional agenda for SSE 6 an output on "Amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code concerning single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability", with a target completion year of 2019 (MSC 99/22, paragraph 20.24).

## Discussion

2 Paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 of the LSA Code states:

"to prevent an accidental release during recovery of the boat, unless the hook is completely reset, either the hook shall not be able to support any load, or the handle or safety pins shall not be able to be returned to the reset (closed) position and any indicators shall not indicate the release mechanism is reset. Additional danger signs shall be posted at each hook station to alert crew members to the proper method of resetting;"

3 Paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code states:

"where a single fall and hook system is used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat in combination with a suitable painter, the requirements of paragraphs 4.4.7.6.7, 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15 need not be applicable; in such an arrangement a single capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat, only when it is fully waterborne, will be adequate."

4 Paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code, therefore, removes the requirement for single fall systems to have two release capabilities whilst not specifying which type (off-load or on-load) single release capability should be employed. Manufacturers have applied this exemption to install on-load release hooks to single fall systems used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat not meeting the safety requirements stated in paragraphs 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15.

5 Document MSC 99/20/8 highlighted the fact that lifeboats and rescue boats with single fall and hook systems face similar potential risks of accidental release during recovery operations as those with twin fall and hook systems. These systems are used and tested in a similar way as twin fall lifeboats and, therefore, should have similar safety standards. As a result, it was proposed that paragraph 4.4.7.6 of the LSA Code should be amended to reflect this. The submission provided two different options to achieve this outcome. The majority of those who spoke on this issue at MSC 99 supported option 2 that proposed the amendment of paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 to specify that exemptions to requirements in paragraph 4.4.7.6.7, 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15 of the LSA Code do not apply to single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability.

## Proposal

6 The co-sponsors propose the following amendment to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code (additions shown through underlining):

".17 where a single fall and hook system is used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat in combination with a suitable painter, the requirements of paragraphs 4.4.7.6.7, 4.4.7.6.8 and 4.4.7.6.15 need not be applicable; in such an arrangement a single capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat, only when it is fully waterborne, will be adequate. These exemptions do not apply to single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability."

## Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the discussion in paragraphs 2 to 5, consider the proposal in paragraph 6 above and take action, as appropriate.