

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP SYSTEMS AND  
EQUIPMENT  
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Agenda item 5

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## REVISION OF SOLAS CHAPTER III AND THE LSA CODE

### Proposal for amendments to paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code

Submitted by Bahamas, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Panama,  
IACS, ICS and InterManager

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document proposes amendments to paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code in order to remove ambiguity in the requirements for free-fall lifeboat safety harnesses
<i>Strategic direction, if applicable:</i>	2
<i>Output:</i>	2.16
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 9
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

#### Introduction

1 Paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code contains requirements for the colour of seat belts and safety harnesses for both davit-launched and free-fall lifeboats, which the co-sponsors believe are ambiguous.

#### Background

2 Paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code states:

"4.6.3.1 Except in free-fall lifeboats, a safety belt shall be fitted at each indicated seating position. The safety belt shall be designed to hold a person with a mass of 100 kg securely in place when the lifeboat is in a capsized position. Each set of safety belts for a seat shall be of a colour which contrasts with the belts for seats immediately adjacent. Free-fall lifeboats shall be fitted with a safety harness at each seat in contrasting colour designed to hold a person with a mass of 100 kg securely in place during a free-fall launch as well as with the lifeboat in capsized position."

3 The acceptance criteria in section 4.5.1.2 of the *Revised standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms* (MSC.1/Circ.1630, which superseded MSC/Circ.980) states:

"...

Each seat is fitted with a safety harness.

The adjacent safety harnesses are to be of contrasting colour

...".

4 The requirement in paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code, for davit-launched lifeboats, is clear in that "each set of safety belts for a seat shall be of a colour which contrasts with the belts for seats immediately adjacent". However, the requirement for a free-fall lifeboat merely states that "free-fall lifeboats shall be fitted with a safety harness at each seat in contrasting colour".

5 Section 4.5.1.2 of annex of MSC.1/Circ.1630 provides additional details; the co-sponsors consider that it would be helpful to introduce such details into the regulation 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code.

6 Additionally, in reviewing paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code, differentiation between the terms "seating positions" for lifeboats and "seats" for free-fall lifeboats should also be clearly reflected.

### Proposal

7 Based on the above and in order to provide clarity, the co-sponsors propose that paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code should be amended to read as follows\*:

"4.6.3.1 Davit-launched lifeboats ~~Except in free-fall lifeboats, a safety belt~~ shall be fitted with a safety belt at each indicated seating position. The safety belt shall be designed to hold a person with a mass of 100 kg securely in place when the lifeboat is in a capsized position. Each ~~set of safety belts~~ for a seating position shall be of a colour which contrasts with the belts for seating positions immediately adjacent. Free-fall lifeboats shall be fitted with a safety harness at each seat in a contrasting colour to the harness fitted on seats immediately adjacent and designed to hold a person with a mass of 100 kg securely in place during a free-fall launch as well as with the lifeboat in a capsized position."

8 The co-sponsors propose that the amended paragraph 4.6.3.1 of the LSA Code should apply to lifeboats "installed on or after dd/mm/yyyy". The resolution, which would adopt the proposed amendment could contain that application statement. In addition, the application statement could be stated above of the proposed amendments. The co-sponsors propose the text for the definition of the "installed", as follows:

"(a) for ships for which the building contract is placed on or after [the specified date], or in the absence of the contract, constructed on or after [the specified date], "installed on or after" means any installation on the ship; or

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\* Tracked changes are indicated using "strikeout" for deleted text and "grey shading" to highlight all modifications and new insertions, including deleted text.

- (b) for ships other than those ships prescribed in (a) above, "installed on or after the specified date" means a contractual delivery date for the equipment or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery of the equipment to the ship on or after [the date specified]."

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

9 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the discussion in paragraphs 2 to 6, the proposal in paragraphs 7 and 8 above and take action, as appropriate.

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