



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

PERIODIC SERVICING OF LIFEBOATS, LIFERAFTS AND RESCUE BOATS, LAUNCHING APPLIANCES AND RELEASE GEAR

Technical Notice SLS.2 Rev.2

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

Reference is made to SOLAS 74 Regulations III/20.3.1 and III/20.11 (as amended by Resolution MSC.404 (96), Regulation III/36, MSC.1/Circ.1277 and MSC.402(96)). The Directorate reminds all concerned to ensure that maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, liferafts and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, are carried out in accordance with the requirements of SOLAS Regulation III/20.11.5, which mandates Resolution MSC.402(96) and entered into force on 1 January 2020.

Weekly and monthly inspections and routine maintenance as specified in the equipment maintenance manual(s) should be carried out by an authorised service provider or by the ship's crew under the direct supervision of a senior ship's officer in accordance with the maintenance manual(s). All other inspections, servicing and repairs should be carried out by either:

- a service provider, authorised in accordance with Resolution MSC.402(96), by a Recognised Organisation listed in Merchant Shipping Notice 96 Rev.2 (Service providers seeking approval should contact any of the relevant Recognised Organisations); or
- the original equipment manufacturer when carrying out services on their own equipment, conducted by certified personnel in accordance with Resolution MSC.402(96) for each make and type/model of the equipment for which the service is provided.
- a service provider certified by a Recognised Organisation under MSC.1/Circ.1277 prior to 1st January 2020 (until the service provider's certificate expiry date).

The 5-yearly overload test and the annual maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, liferafts, rescue boats and fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, shall be credited provided that:

- the inspection, servicing and repairs are carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; and
- the report(s) and checklist(s) are duly completed and signed by the authorised service provider certified personnel. In addition, the report(s) and checklist(s) shall be countersigned by the Company's representative or the ship's Master; and
- the authorised service provider issues, upon completion of same, a statement confirming that the launching appliances and on-load release gear for the lifeboat(s), liferaft(s), rescue boat(s) and fast rescue boat(s), as applicable, remain fit for purpose. The statement shall include a copy of the approved service provider's certificate and the personnel certificate performing such servicing/repairs. These documents shall be kept onboard throughout the lifetime of the LSA equipment.

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Furthermore, the authorised service provider or manufacturer shall inform the vessel's Recognised Organisation (the RO issuing the vessel's Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or Passenger Ship Safety Certificate) in case any of the equipment is found damaged, defective and/or un-serviceable and if any replacement of parts shall be carried out. Such repairs shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the RO.

In cases where a manufacturer is no longer in business or no longer provides technical support, Recognised Organisations may authorise service providers for the equipment on the basis of prior authorisation for the equipment and/or long-term experience and demonstrated expertise as an authorised service provider. In the eventuality of an urgent need to carry out the relevant services onboard in a port where there is no approved service provider, for the makes and types of equipment onboard, the Recognised Organisation which issued the vessel's Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate or the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate, may accept an alternative service provider, given that the said service provider is considered competent to perform the services, following a satisfactory assessment based on previous experience, qualification and training in accordance with the relevant standards¹, and subject to the attending surveyor witnessing the services carried out onboard.

Recognised Organisations are requested to make available the information of approved service providers on their respective websites.

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18 March 2020

(1) ISO/PAS 23678-1:2020 - Service personnel for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear would be considered acceptable.

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