

Conducting
Safer
Lifeboats &
Davit
Inspections
and Testing

As per IMO/MSC/
Circ.1206. Rev 1



In compliance with IMO/MSC/Circ. 1392 owners are reminded that all hooks will be required to be made compliant or renewed by 2019.

Preface

This guide is presented as an aid to relevant inspectors of lifeboats and davit systems on board vessels in accordance with IMO/MSC/Circ. 1206. Rev. 1.



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Lifeboat Inspections

Section 1

Prior to entry into lifeboat



Before anyone should step into a lifeboat, it is of paramount importance that the following steps are taken to ensure that the craft is securely fastened to avoid any potential injury

- Visually check lifeboat hook indicators are in 'lock/safe' position (Red)
- Secure Maintenance Pendants

- Secure FPD, strops or pins to release hook
- Open hatch door to visually check release handle unit.
- Check and ensure that the hydrostatic unit is in 'lock/safe' position
- Ensure handles safety pin is secured in place
- ***IMPORTANT: In the event that the above conditions are not met***, the lifeboat is to be considered suspect, and it is recommended that lifeboat be lowered to waterline
- Proceed to enter lifeboat
- Carry on checks as per manufacturers requirements

Section 2

Internal Check

Check lifeboat release retrieval system (LRRS)

- Check wear & tear of release cables
- Check wear & tear of hydrostatic cable
- Replace hydrostatic diaphragm
- Check for hook bill wear & tear against manufacturers tolerances
- Check intermediate lock for wear & tear against manufacturers tolerances
- Check for wear & tear on connecting plates and keel shoe
- Grease moving parts as per Manufacturer's recommendations
- Conduct function tests on release hook system

Check for air bottles (Compressed air systems)

- Check pressure gauges, manifolds, hose, and air cylinders for wear & tear and record air pressure (No lower than 180 bar)



Basic Engine Check

- Check engine oil level (*Replace if required*)
- Check cooling water level (*Top up if required*)
- Check fuel levels
- Change oil and fuel filters

- Check engine V belts (*Replace if required*)
- Start engine and check stern tube rotation, (forward and reverse)
- Check and ensure battery charger is in good working order
- Check batteries condition (*Charge Level*)

Sprinkler Pump System

- Ensure sprinkler pump system is in good working order
- Check V Belt is in good working order

Stern Tube & Gland Packing

- Ensure Stern tube & Gland packing are in good order (*No water leakage*)

Steering Systems

- Ensure steering system is smooth in both Directions (Port / Starboard)
- Ensure Emergency steering system (Tiller) is in good working order

Control Panel

- Ensure all electrical systems are in good working order
- Ensure Searchlight in working order (*Replace if required*)



- Ensure Navigation/ Strobe lights are in good working order (*Replace if required*)
- Ensure compass lights are in good working order

- Ensure Fuel Gauges/ Temperature Gauges are in good working order

Internal conditions of lifeboat

- Ensure seatbelts are in good working order
- Ensure that lifeboat is free of FRP structural cracks or deformities



- Ensure coxswain windows are clear
- Ensure Bilge pump is in good working order
- Ensure Lifeboat Drain plug is in good working order
- Ensure hatch door gaskets are in good order (*Replace if required*)

- Ensure hatch door handles are in good working order
- Ensure all LSA equipment is in order
- Ensure water and rations are valid
(Replace if required)

Section 3

External Check

- Ensure paint coat reflects orange (*not faded*)



- Polish/respray paint coat if required

- Ensure that lifeboat is free of FRP structural cracks or deformities



- Ensure reflective tape is in good order
(Replace if required)
- Lifeboat Markings/ Callsigns to be replaced if damaged
- Ensure Handrails/ Grabrails / Grablines / Floaters are in good order
(Replace if required)
- Ensure sprinkler pipes/nozzles are in good working order
- Ensure coxswain windows and hatch door windows are clear

Section 4

Davit Inspections

- Ensure Davit Arm locks are secured and lashed
- Ensure harbour pins are in place



(Pictured. Harbour Pin)

- Proceed to check davit structure for corrosion and wear
- Ensure davit arms and pins are in good working order & corrosion free (*Replace if required*)

- Check trigger release & ensure they are in good working order
- Check lashing cables and turnbuckles for corrosion (*Replace if required*)
- Check wire ropes for wear/fray/kinks (*Replace if required*)
- Check sheaves and bushings for damage & corrosion
- Check floating block for corrosion & damage (*Replace if required*)



- Check limit switch for damage & corrosion



(Pictured. Limit Switch)

- Check wire ropes, and remote wire for wear & damage (*Replace if required*)
- Check and ensure chokes are not damaged

Mechanical Winch

- Check external condition of winch & gearbox compartment. Ensure corrosion free
- Check winch gear oil level and oil condition. Ensure oil is not contaminated
- Ensure seals are in good order
- Ensure Oil level glass is visible
- Ensure gears/bearings are in good working order
- Ensure gear teeth are not chipped, damaged
- Ensure winch main brakes and centrifugal brakes are in good working order and within manufacturers specified recommendations
- Ensure one-way cam clutch is in good working order
- Ensure oil seals are in good working order

- Ensure brake housing is clean and oil free
- Ensure sealants are in good working order
- Ensure worm gear for locking is in good working order
- Ensure dead man's arm/brake lever, is in good working order
- Carry out function test for davit & winch



(Pictured. Winch)

Aaron Marine Offshore Pte. Ltd. is a Class Approved, Independent Lifeboat and Davit System, Service, Testing and Training Specialist. With more than 20 years of experience in Lifeboats, Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and other Life Saving Equipment which includes Life Jackets, Immersion Suits, Gangway and Accommodation Ladders Testing.

Disclaimer: *The above is provided strictly for guidance purposes only. Reading this guide does not qualify or certify the reader. Readers must undergo the necessary qualifications before attempting to assess any form of Lifeboat or Davit Inspections. For more details:*

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