

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
106th session
Agenda item 11

MSC 106/11/1
17 June 2022
Original: ENGLISH
Pre-session public release:

SHIP SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

Revised draft amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code

Submitted by Bahamas, Liberia, New Zealand, Panama, IACS, IFSMA, INTERCARGO,
InterManager, IPTA and ITF

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document considers the draft amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code as agreed by SSE 7, which removed the reference to paragraph 4.4.7.6.8, and identifies an unforeseen consequence in the proposed deletion of paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 pertaining to off-load hooks.

*Strategic direction,
if applicable:* Not applicable

Output: Not applicable

Action to be taken: Paragraph 11

Related documents: SSE 6/13; SSE 7/12, SSE 7/12/1 and SSE 7/21 (paragraph 21.1.11)

Background

1 The Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE 6), at its sixth session, considered document SSE 6/13 (Marshall Islands et al.) recalling the discussion that had taken place at the ninety-ninth session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 99) regarding the amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code to ensure adequate safety standards for lifeboats and rescue boats fitted with single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability.

2 SSE 7 considered the issue further based on documents SSE 7/12 (Marshall Islands et al.) and SSE 7/12/1 (Norway and United States), and subsequently agreed to the proposed amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code, which deleted the reference to paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 from the exclusions.

3 Paragraph 21.1.11 of document SSE 7/21, invites the Committee:

"to note that the draft amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code concerning single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability have been finalized, for submission to a future session of the Committee, as a package, in conjunction with the draft amendments to the LSA Code related to ventilation of survival craft (paragraphs 3.22 and 12.6);".

Discussion

4 Paragraph 4.4.7.6.7 of the LSA Code states:

".7 the mechanism shall have two release capabilities: normal (off-load) release capability and on-load release capability:

.7.1 normal (off-load) release capability shall release the lifeboat when it is waterborne or when there is no load on the hooks, and not require manual separation of the lifting ring or shackle from the jaw of the hook; and

.7.2 on-load release capability shall release the lifeboat with a load on the hooks. This release mechanism shall be provided with a hydrostatic interlock unless other means are provided to ensure that the boat is waterborne before the release mechanism can be activated. In case of failure or when the boat is not waterborne, there shall be a means to override the hydrostatic interlock or similar device to allow emergency release. This interlock override capability shall be adequately protected against accidental or premature use. Adequate protection shall include special mechanical protection not normally required for off-load release, in addition to a danger sign. The protection shall be deliberately destroyed by applying a suitable minimum force, for instance by breaking a protection glass or translucent cover. A label or thin wire seal is not considered sufficiently robust. To prevent a premature on-load release, on-load operation of the release mechanism shall require multiple, deliberate and sustained action or actions by the operator;"

5 Paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 of the LSA Code states:

".8 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; "

6 The current paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code reads:

".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."

7 The proposed amended paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code agreed by SSE 7 reads:

".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 and 4.4.7.6.15 need not be applicable, provided that the single fall and hook system does not have the capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat with a load on the hook when it is not fully waterborne."

8 It is noted that the co-sponsors of document SSE 7/12 (of which IACS was one) suggested in the document that the exemption for the requirements of paragraph 4.4.7.6.8, as referenced in paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code, is not necessary for single-fall systems capable of only releasing the lifeboat or rescue boat when it is fully waterborne. Any single fall hook system, whether it is boat-mounted or fall-mounted, should not be able to support any load if it is not properly reset, nor should the handle of such a system be capable of returning to the reset/closed position unless it is properly reset. Therefore, the co-sponsors proposed that paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 of the LSA Code be removed from the list of exemptions contained in paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code.

9 However, the co-sponsors of this document have reconsidered the above and suggest that an unforeseen consequence of deleting reference to paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 from paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code is that paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 would now apply to off-load hooks as well. The co-sponsors consider that the application of paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 is not appropriate to some very mechanically simplistic off-load hooks with few moving parts, i.e. a solid hook with a spring-loaded guard on the hook mouth.

Proposal

10 To address the above, the co-sponsors propose that draft sub-paragraph 17 of paragraph 4.4.7.6 of the LSA Code is amended as follows:*

"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 and 4.4.7.6.15 need not be applicable, provided that the single fall and hook system does not have the capability to release the lifeboat or rescue boat with a load on the hook when it is not fully waterborne. Where a design of off-load release hook will prevent an accidental release during recovery of the boat without meeting the requirements of paragraph 4.4.7.6.8, such as a solid hook with a spring-loaded guard on the hook mouth or other mechanically simplistic off-load release hook with few moving parts, the requirements of paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 need not be applicable."

Action requested of the Committee

11 The Committee is requested to consider the above discussion and the proposal in paragraph 10, and take action, as appropriate.

* Tracked changes are indicated using "grey shading" to highlight new insertion.