

GUIDELINES

ON THE APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER III OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA (SOLAS-74)

ND No. 2-030101-051-E

RULE CHANGE NOTICE

ENTERS INTO FORCE:

01.01.2026



St. Petersburg
2025

GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER III OF SOLAS- 74

The present Rule Change Notice to the Guidelines for the application of provisions of Chapter III of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS-74) (hereinafter—RCN) has been approved in accordance with the established approval procedure and contains information on amendments, except for editorial amendments. RCN amendments come in force on 1 January 2026.

REVISION HISTORY

Item	Applicability	Description	Remarks
Table 1.1.1 (new lines)	Life-saving appliances Totally enclosed lifeboats Life jackets Release gears and launching appliances Launching appliance using falls with winches	Instructions have been introduced regarding changes to the requirements for: ventilation systems, capsizing time during tests, disconnection under load, and the lowering time of life-saving appliances and the rescue boat	IMO resolution MSC.535(107) and MSC.554(108)
Para 21.8 (new)	Cargo ships Launching appliance for a rescue boat	Instructions have been introduced regarding the launching process	IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1693
Para 21.9 (new)	Cargo ships Launching appliance for a rescue boat	Instructions have been introduced regarding the launching preparation	IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1693

PART II. REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPS, LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS

21 REGULATION 34. COMPLIANCE OF LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH LSA CODE

Table 21.1 is supplemented by new lines reading as follows:

«

2023 June	MSC.535(107)	chapter VI (ventilation means of totally enclosed lifeboats)	1 January 2026
2024 May	MSC.554(108)	chapter II (life jackets) chapter IV (Release system for lifeboats launched using falls and winches) chapter VI (Lifeboat launching appliances using falls and winches)	1 January 2026

».

New paras 21.8 and **21.9** are introduced reading as follows:

«**21.8** For cargo ships, hoisting up of a dedicated rescue boat from its stowed position shall be considered as part of launching preparation, but not part of the launching process. Therefore, manual hoisting up prior to embarkation may be acceptable for subsequent slewing out*.

21.9 For cargo ships not fitted with stored mechanical power in compliance with para 6.1.1.3 of the LSA Code, as amended through resolution MSC.459(101), the manual hoisting from the stowed position and turning out to the embarkation position of the rescue boat does not need to be actuated from a position within the rescue boat.

Launching mechanism is the means to control the launch of the lifeboat or rescue boat after the point of embarkation when all persons assigned have boarded. Therefore, for cargo ships, manual hoisting up of a dedicated rescue boat prior to embarkation may be acceptable for subsequent slewing out by stored mechanical power¹.».

* Refer to IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1693.

Russian Maritime Register of Shipping

**Rule Change Notice
to the Guidelines for the application of provisions of Chapter III
of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS-74)**

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