



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 845 of 5th October 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Lowering Speed of Survival Craft
Reference	LSA Code

Revision of Lowering Speed of Survival Craft and Rescue Boats

The Committee adopted the amendments to paragraphs 6.1.2.8 and 6.1.2.10 of Chapter VI of the LSA Code (resolution MSC.554(108)), which address the issue of lowering speed for fully loaded survival craft and rescue boats. The LSA Code states that the minimum lowering speed is calculated using the formula $S = 0.4 + 0.02H$, where S represents the lowering speed in meters per second, and H represents the height in meters from the davit head to the waterline when the ship is at its lightest sea-going condition.

However, due to the construction of larger cargo ships with higher launching heights, it has become challenging to maintain the required minimum lowering speed. To address this, a maximum lowering speed of 1.3 m/s is added and recognized the need to include a minimum lowering speed of 1.0 m/s. The Administration may accept a maximum lowering speed other than 1.3 m/s.

Application: The entry into force date for these amendments is January 1, 2026. The amendments are to be applied to life-saving appliances installed on or after January 1, 2026, where the expression "installed on or after January 1, 2026" means:

- a) Ships for which the building contract is placed on or after January 1, 2026, or in the absence of the contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after January 1, 2026, all installations of the specified type on board those ships; or
- b) For ships other than those ships specified in (a) above, all installations of the specified type, having a contractual delivery date for the equipment or, in the absence of a contractual delivery date to the ship, actually delivered to the ship on or after January 1, 2026.

CONARINA Head Office

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455
 Miami, FL., 33126
 Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,
 Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,
joel@conarinagroup.com



Amendments to the Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear

The Committee adopted resolution MSC.559(108) introducing amendments to paragraph 6.2.3 of the Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear (resolution MSC.402(96)) emanating from the new ventilation requirements for totally enclosed lifeboats adopted through resolution MSC.535(107). The amendments introduced for lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats, the ventilation system, where fitted, shall be thoroughly examined, and checked for satisfactory condition and operation.

Application: The amendments shall enter into force on January 1, 2026

REFERENCES:

- Chapter VI of the LSA Code (resolution MSC.554(108))

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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Miami, FL., 33126
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Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,
joel@conarinagroup.com