INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

E

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

MSC.1/Circ.1466
24 June 2013

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION ON FALL PREVENTER DEVICES (MSC.1/CIRC.1392 AND MSC.1/CIRC.1327)

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009), approved *Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices* (FPDs) (MSC.1/Circ.1327) following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-second session.

2 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011), approved *Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat release and retrieval systems* (MSC.1/Circ.1392), as per SOLAS regulation III/1.5, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-fifth session, and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Lifeboat Release Hooks (16 to 18 March 2011).

3 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-second session (12 to 21 June 2013), approved a unified interpretation on fall preventer devices (MSC.1/Circ.1392 and MSC.1/Circ.1327), providing guidance on the requirements for the strength and testing standards to be applied to FPDs, following the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-seventh session.

4 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed unified interpretation when applying the provisions of MSC.1/Circ.1392 and MSC.1/Circ.1327 and bring it to the attention of all parties concerned.

***

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMO'S CONTRIBUTION BEYOND RIO+20

ANNEX

FALL PREVENTER DEVICES (MSC.1/CIRC.1392 AND CIRC.1327)

MSC.1/Circ.1392, paragraph 4, states:

"*Member Governments are strongly urged to ensure that all ships which are fitted with on-load release systems for lifeboats are equipped with fall preventer devices as per paragraph 6 of these Guidelines at the earliest opportunity.*"

MSC.1/Circ.1392, annex, paragraph 6, states:

"*On each ship, fall preventer devices in accordance with the Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs) (MSC.1/Circ.1327) should be employed for each existing lifeboat release and retrieval system ...*"

MSC.1/Circ.1327, paragraph 2, states:

"*The use of FPDs should be considered as an interim risk mitigation measure, only to be used in connection with existing on-load release hooks, at the discretion of the master, pending the wide implementation of improved hook designs with enhanced safety features.*"

Interpretation

1 Where locking pins are provided as an FPD, the pins should be designed so that they have a minimum factor of safety of 6 as per the LSA Code, paragraph 6.1.1.6. Where existing on-load release hooks are drilled to provide a locking pin insertion point, the strength of the hooks should continue to satisfy the relevant requirements in the LSA Code and in the *Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances* (resolution MSC.81(70), part 2, paragraph 5.3.1) and should comply with the requirements of the *Guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs)* (MSC.1/Circ.1327, paragraph 2.1). The modification of the hook in this respect should be acceptable to the manufacturer of the hook.

2 Where strops or slings with fittings (e.g. shackles) are used as an FPD, the following test requirements should be considered:

.1 environment tests as set out in resolution MSC.81(70), part 1, paragraph 1.2.1 or equivalent;

.2 tests for rot-proof, colour-fast and resistant to deterioration from exposure to sunlight and that they are not unduly affected by seawater, oil or fungal attack as set out in resolution MSC 81(70), part 1, paragraph 2.4, or equivalent;

.3 prototype test to a factor of safety of 6; and

.4 a factory acceptance test of 2.2 x SWL.

Note: The factor of safety should be based upon the SWL, which should be not less than the total weight of the lifeboat when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment.

3 It is the responsibility of the lifeboat and davit manufacturer to confirm that the attachment eye is suitable for the use of the proposed FPD. If the lifeboat and/or davit manufacturer is no longer available, the suitability should be determined by an independent service provider.