



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Maintenance of Shipboard Passenger Lifts

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

Summary

This Note draws the attention of the shipping industry the importance of proper maintenance and regular checks on passenger lifts installed on board ships.

1. Nowadays most large passenger ships and many large cargo ships are installed with passenger lifts for use by passengers and/or crew. Recently there were cases of fatal and serious shipboard accidents associated with passenger lifts which revealed the lack of proper maintenance and regular checks on passenger lifts on board ships.
2. Although the SOLAS Convention has no specific provisions for passenger lifts installed onboard ships, SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-1 provides that ships shall be designed, constructed and maintained in compliance with the structural, mechanical and electrical requirements of a classification society which is recognized by the Administration in accordance with the provisions of regulation XI/1, or with applicable national standards of the Administration which provide an equivalent level of safety. Furthermore, Section 10.3 of the ISM Code stipulates that the Company should establish procedures in safety management system to identify equipment and technical systems the sudden operational failure of which may result in hazardous situations. The safety management system should provide for specific measures aimed at promoting the reliability of such equipment or systems. The measures should include the regular testing of stand-by arrangements and equipment or technical systems that are not in continuous use. Since shipboard passenger lifts are lifting appliances driven by electro-mechanical means, the failure of which will create hazardous situations endangering the safety of the user onboard. Therefore the afore-mentioned general requirements are applicable to passenger lifts installed on board ships.

3. Owners, managers and operators of Hong Kong registered ships installed with passenger lifts are hereby reminded that, as a basic ISM Code requirement, appropriate procedures should be established and incorporated in the ship's maintenance plan under the safety management system to ensure that passenger lifts are properly maintained and regularly inspected and tested. In drawing up the maintenance and inspection/testing procedures, reference should be made to recommendations from the lift manufacturer or relevant classification society survey requirements. It should also be noted that since the maintenance, detailed examination and testing of shipboard passenger lift installations require expertise not normally possessed by shipboard staff, as such they should be performed by competent service personnel approved or recognized by the lift manufacturer.

4. Recognized Organization auditor conducting SMC audit on a Hong Kong registered ship installed with passenger lift is required to ensure that the maintenance and inspection/testing procedures mentioned in paragraph 3 above are incorporated in the ship's safety management system, and are being properly implemented on board.

Enquiries

5. Any queries arising from this Note should be directed to the Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety Section at Tel. No.: (852) 2852 4510, Fax No.: (852) 2545 0556, E-mail: ss_css@mardep.gov.hk, or the Senior Surveyor/International Safety Management Section at Tel. No.: (852) 2852 4504, Fax No.: (852) 2545 0556, E-mail: ssism@mardep.gov.hk.

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