

Notice on the Further Interpretation of the Survey Requirements for Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation

To all ship owners and operators,

The newly added section II-1/3-9 *Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation* in SOLAS 1974 amendment adopted by IMO MSC. 256(84), had taken effect on 1 January 2010. The details are as follows:

1. Ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010 shall be provided with means of embarkation on and disembarkation from ships for use in port and in port related operations, such as gangways and accommodation ladders, in accordance with paragraph 2, unless the Administration deems that compliance with a particular provision is unreasonable or impractical.

Circumstances where compliance may be deemed unreasonable or impractical may include where the ship:

- (1) has small freeboards and is provided with boarding ramps; or*
- (2) is engaged in voyages between designated ports where appropriate shore accommodation/embarkation ladders (platforms) are provided.*

2. The means of embarkation and disembarkation required in paragraph 1 shall be constructed and installed based on the guidelines, i.e. Guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of accommodation ladders and gangways (MSC.1/Circ. 1331), developed by the Organization.

3. For all ships the means of embarkation and disembarkation shall be inspected and maintained in suitable condition for their intended purpose, taking into account any restrictions related to safe loading. All wires used to support the means of embarkation and disembarkation shall be maintained as specified in regulation III/20.4.

In order to inform the relevant parties of the above-mentioned requirements, CCS technical department issued the CCS Circular No. 357 (CCS TM357) on 20 November 2009 to introduce the main content of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-9 *Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation* and Circular MSC.1/1331 developed by IMO. For the purpose of providing a comprehensive overview of the requirements to owners and operators, facilitating the implementation of the requirements by related parties, avoiding the incompleteness of surveys due to the failure of meeting the requirements and deficiencies imposed by PSC /or FSC during the inspection, this notice sets out the relevant inspection requirements in details as a further explanation to CCS Circular TM357. Please perform in accordance with this notice.

1. Maintenance

The maintenance of the means of embarkation and disembarkation (including accommodation ladders, gangways, and winches etc.) shall be carried out in accordance with paragraph 4 *Maintenance* of MSC.1/ Circ. 1331. All wires used to support the means of embarkation and disembarkation shall be maintained as specified in SOLAS regulation III/20.4. Please be noted that the regulation III/20.4 had been amended by IMO Resolution MSC.216 (82) which took effect on 1 July 2008. The details of the amendment are as follows: *Falls used in launching shall be inspected periodically with special regard for areas passing through sheaves, and renewed when necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than 5 years, whichever is the earlier.*

The above maintenance will be verified by attending surveyor and auditor during Cargo Ship Safety Equipments survey /or Passenger Ship Safety survey and ISM audit. Provided that no documental record on board can prove that the wires used to support the means of embarkation and disembarkation are renewed as regulation III/20.4, i.e. falls renewed when necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than 5 years, whichever is the earlier, the ship is considered in non-compliance with the SOLAS regulation II-1/3-9 Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation, and immediate correction is required.

2. Thorough examination during annual survey

On or after 1 January 2010, the following equipments, i.e. accommodation ladders/gangways and davits, and winches, shall be thoroughly examined and checked during Cargo Ship Safety Equipments annual survey /or Passenger Ship Safety renewal survey. For details of the examination items, please refer to paragraph 5.1.1.1, 5.1.2.1, and 5.2.1 of MSC.1/Circ. 1331. As components of Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation, the requirements listed in paragraph 3.2 *Lighting* and 3.3 *lifebuoy* of MSC.1/Circ. 1331 should also be duly confirmed by attending surveyor during the annual survey. Please be noted that the arrangement requirements listed in paragraph 3.4.1 shall be merely applied to the ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, the existing ships are not required to meet such requirements. CCS had added the following memorandum in Ship Survey Status “First thorough examination and/or load test to means of embarkation and disembarkation required under regulation II-1/3-9 of the SOLAS 1974 as amended, if any, should be carried out in compliance with MSC1 Cir.1331 at next coming surveys (SE AS/PS/RS or PSS RS or CSP AS/PS/RS) on or after 1st Jan.2010 as required in CCS Notice No.BJCD(10)0353WL”.

3. Five-year examination

On or after 1 January 2010, during the first Cargo Ship Safety Equipments renewal survey /or Passenger Ship Load Line renewal survey, besides annual thorough examinations, the test of specified maximum operational load shall also be carried out on the Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation. The load used for the test and the test methods shall comply with the requirement specified in section 5.3 of MSC.1/Circ. 1331. Load tests of accommodation ladders/gangways and davits, and winches shall be carried out in

accordance with the method and procedure specified in international standard ISO5488: 1979 *Shipbuilding – accommodation ladders*, ISO 7061:1993 *Shipbuilding – aluminum shore gangways for seagoing vessels*, and ISO 7364:1983 *Shipbuilding and marine structures –deck machinery – accommodation ladder winches* respectively. In the case of that the equipments were manufactured under the national standards or requirements and standards recognized by administrations, the load test can also be carried out pursuant to its manufacture standard or test requirements specified in manufacture instruction. After such test, the load used for these tests should be marked as the maximum operational load in accordance with paragraph 3.5.

4. New ship , equipments renewed or newly-installed on existing ship

For ships constructed on or after 1 January 2010, i.e. keels were laid on or after 1 January 2010, or existing ships with accommodation ladders and gangways renewed or newly-installed on or after 1 January 2010, the product certificates and installation tests shall be verified by attending surveyor in accordance with CCS TM357.

Please be noted that the Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation in CCS TM357 and this notice do not include the equipment of pilot transfer arrangements as specified in regulation 23 of SOLAS Chapter V. Equipment of pilot transfer arrangements shall still be inspected in accordance with the requirements of SOLAS.

Furthermore, the special requirements of Flag state on the means of embarkation and disembarkation shall be paid attention to and complied with.

Classed Ship in Service Dept.
China Classification Society

Attachment I CCS Circular TM 357, *Implementation Requirements of new regulation II-1/3-9 SOLAS, Means of Embarkation and Disembarkation;*

Attachment II *Guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of accommodation ladders and gangways (MSC.1/Circ. 1331)*