



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies

SUBJECT: SIMULATED LAUNCHING GUIDELINES FOR FREE-FALL LIFEBOATS

DEFINITIONS:

The following terms shall mean:

- “Administration” – Tuvalu Ship Registry;
- “Simulated Launching” – a means of training the crew in the free-fall release procedure of free-fall lifeboats and in verifying the satisfactory function of the free-fall release system without allowing the lifeboat to free-fall into the sea.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this marine circular is to provide an outline of essential procedural steps to safely carry out simulated launching drills of free-fall style lifeboats. These steps are general in nature, and the lifeboat manufacturer’s instructions should always be followed before conducting simulated launching.

REFERENCES:

- (a) IMO MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1, 11 June 2009
- (b) SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 19.3.3.4

APPLICATION:

This circular applies to all Tuvalu flagged vessels that are fitted with lifeboats arranged for free-fall launching.

CONTENTS:

1. Scope

Simulated launching should always be carried out with lifeboats and launching appliances designed to accommodate it, and for which the manufacturer has provided instructions. Simulated launching should be carried out under the supervision of a responsible person who should be an officer experienced in such procedures.

2. Typical Simulated Launching Sequence

- 2.1. Check equipment and documentation to ensure that all components of the lifeboat and launching appliances are in good operational condition.
- 2.2. Ensure that the restraining device(s) provided by the manufacturer for simulated launching are installed and secure and that the free-fall release mechanism is fully and correctly engaged.

- 2.3. Establish and maintain good communication between the assigned operating crew and the responsible person.
- 2.4. Disengage lashings, gripes, etc. installed to secure the lifeboat for sea or for maintenance, except those required for simulated free-fall.
- 2.5. Participating crew board the lifeboat and fasten their seatbelts under the supervision of the responsible person.
- 2.6. All crew, except the assigned operating crew, disembark the lifeboat. The assigned operating crew fully prepares the lifeboat for free-fall launch and secures themselves in their seats for the release operation.
- 2.7. The assigned operating crew activates the release mechanism when instructed by the responsible person. Ensure that the release mechanism operates satisfactorily and the lifeboat travels down the ramp to the distance specified in the manufacturer's instructions.
- 2.8. Recover the lifeboat to its stowed position, using the means provided by the manufacturer and ensure that the free-fall release mechanism is fully and correctly engaged.
- 2.9. Repeat procedures from section 2.7 above, using the back-up release mechanism when applicable.
- 2.10. The assigned operating crew disembarks the lifeboat.
- 2.11. Ensure that the lifeboat is returned to its normal stowed condition. Remove any restraining and/or recovery devices used only for the simulated launch procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry