

Notice on Watertightness Rectification for Chain Releaser in Chain Locker

Relevant shipping companies:

Recently, CCS classed ships in Japan are often questioned for watertightness of cable releaser in chain locker during PSC inspection, and asked for rectification in a limited time period. Such requirements are according to Regulation 22-2 of 2003 amendment to 1966 International Load Line Convention which is applicable to ships the keels of which are laid on or after Jan 1st 2005.

Now the cable releasers questioned by Japan PSCO are mainly dog type cable calenches. Such type is manufactured according to China National Shipping Industry Standard CB/T3143-1999. There are 2 hinges and 4 clamps used for fixation which can only guarantee weathertight. In order to guarantee watertightness, some Chinese manufacturers make improvement by adding the number of clamps. The new types have passed watertight test with the attendance of product surveyors and test results meet the watertight requirement. Thus product surveyors issued survey reports or test certificates. So far two types of cable releasers have passed the tests. They are 8-clamp type and 7-clamp type (with no hinge), seen as follows:

A: 8-clamp type



B: 7-clamp type



CCS has informed Japan PSC of the above-mentioned two types of cable releasers, and got its consent for that. In order to prevent recurrence for similar situation or unnecessary troubles or even detention for CCS classed ships during Japan PSC inspection, relevant shipping companies are requested to rectify dog type cable calenches on their ships. Detailed rectification actions are as follows:

1. Replace the old cable releasers with new ones which satisfy the watertight requirements (e.g. according to CB*289-81、CB3143-83、JIS F2025-1992). If there is a product certificate for the cable releaser, keep the original copy on board for PSC inspection purpose. It is recommended to give top priority to this action.
2. If shipping company adds the number of clamps to rectify the old cable releaser, either the above-mentioned type A or B shall be adopted. Hydrostatic test of chain locker is required to verify the watertightness of cable releaser after rectification. Relevant photos of the test shall be kept on board.
3. For current cable releasers which have been installed on board in compliance with the requirement of type A or B, no more rectification will adopt. But these products shall pass the hydrostatic tests with relevant photos kept on board.
4. For ships not in compliance with the watertight requirement, internal memorandums are to be given in SSMIS: The cable releaser doesn't meet the watertight requirement, and shall be changed to watertight type no later than the due date of next annual survey. Surveyors shall carry out hydrostatic test of chain locker, if necessary, to ensure the watertightness of cable releaser. Surveyors will verify the rectification condition at annual survey.
5. Newbuildings are banned to use locked type cable releaser by CCS since Oct 29th 2010.

Relevant shipping companies are requested to get prepared, and make rectification , if necessary, to avoid ships being detained.

Classed Newbuildings Department
Technology Management Department
China Classification Society