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MSC.1/Circ.1696
28 August 2025

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION II-1/3-13.2.4

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 110th session (18 to 27 June 2025), in order to facilitate uniform documentation of load testing and thorough examination for existing non-certified lifting appliances, approved the unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment, at its eleventh session (24 to 28 February 2025), as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretation as guidance when applying SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 and to bring the unified interpretation to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION II-1/3-13.2.4****SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2 – Design, construction and installation****MSC.1/Circ.1663 *Guidelines for lifting appliances***

1 For existing lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026 without valid certificates of the test and thorough examination under another international instrument (e.g. ILO Convention concerning Occupational Safety and Health in Dock Work (No. 152)) acceptable to the Administration, compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 could be demonstrated by means of a "factual statement" (also known as a "statement of fact"), issued by the competent person approved by the Administration, or the recognized organization (RO).

2 The factual statement should confirm that the lifting appliance has been subjected to a load test (the value of the test load is to be taken as per table 1 of paragraph 3.2.1.5 of the *Guidelines for lifting appliances* (MSC.1/Circ.1663) and subsequently been thoroughly examined by the competent person approved by the Administration, or an RO, satisfying the requirements in SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 only. The criteria against which the load test and thorough examination have been carried out, should be clearly stated in the factual statement. It should further be stated that the factual statement does not confirm compliance with SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and 3-13.2.3. A sample factual statement is provided in the appendix to this unified interpretation.

3 Where, as described in paragraph 3.2.1.6 of the *Guidelines* (MSC.1/Circ.1663), the safe working load (SWL) has been nominated by the company (see definition SOLAS regulation IX/1), it should be made clear in the factual statement that the competent person approved by the Administration, or an RO, has confirmed that the test load has been calculated based on a SWL nominated by the company, to the satisfaction of the Administration. Further, it should be made clear in the factual statement, that the SWL is not confirmed by the competent person.

4 To avoid misinterpretation of the extent of the confirmation of compliance, the factual statement form should be different from the form used to confirm compliance with SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and 3-13.2.3. The Sample Certificate in appendix 1 of the *Guidelines*, should not be used also as a factual statement form to confirm compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4.

5 In order to document the history of the test and thorough examination and to comply with paragraph 3.2.2.1.1 of the *Guidelines*, the factual statement may be attached to the form "Register of lifting appliances and cargo handling gear" in appendix 3 of the *Guidelines*, as long as the factual statement clearly refers to documenting the compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4 only.

6 In order to comply with paragraph 3.2.2.1.2 of the *Guidelines*, the annual thorough examination may be documented (as 12-monthly, with reference to Note 2 (b)) in the form "Register of lifting appliances and cargo handling gear" in appendix 3 of the *Guidelines*.

APPENDIX*

**SAMPLE FORM OF THE FACTUAL STATEMENT OF THE TEST AND THOROUGH
EXAMINATION OF NON-CERTIFIED EXISTING LIFTING APPLIANCES
INSTALLED BEFORE 1 JANUARY 2026**

Factual Statement
of the test and thorough examination of non-certified existing lifting appliances
installed before 1 January 2026

Issued under the provisions of paragraph 3.2.3.2 of the *Guidelines for lifting appliances*
(MSC.1/Circ.1663).

(Official seal) Document No.:

Name of Ship:

IMO Number:

Call Sign:

Port of Registry:

Name of Owner:

THIS FACTUAL STATEMENT:

- .1 is to confirm that the lifting appliance(s) described herein, has/have been load tested and thoroughly examined and, on examination, found free from defects, as far as could be seen;
- .2 may be used to document compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/3-13.2.4;
- .3 does not confirm compliance with SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13.2.1 and 3-13.2.3;
- .4 does not confirm the safe working load (SWL) of the lifting appliance(s) nominated by the Company, to the satisfaction of Administration;
- .5 is to confirm that the lifting appliance(s) listed below has/have been subjected to a load test followed by thorough examination carried out by a competent person; and
- .6 is to confirm that the test load of _____ (tonnes) has been calculated in accordance with paragraphs 3.2.1.5 and 3.2.1.6 of the *Guidelines for lifting appliances* (MSC.1/Circ.1663), based on the safe working load (SWL) of _____ (tonnes) nominated by the Company to the satisfaction of the Administration (attached to this factual statement).

* The sample Factual Statement provided in the appendix represents only a possible form of a factual statement. Other forms can also be used provided that all necessary information is contained.

Situation and description of lifting appliance (with distinguishing number or mark, if any) which has been tested and thoroughly examined	Angle to the horizontal or radius at which test load is applied		Test load (tonnes)
	Angle (degrees)	Radius (metres)	
Lifting appliance A (e.g. description, serial number, etc.)			
Lifting appliance B (e.g. description, serial number, etc.)			

This factual statement is valid until: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Date of load test and thorough examination: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Issued at: (place of issue of the statement)

Date of issue: (dd/mm/yyyy)

Signature of the competent person issuing the factual statement:
