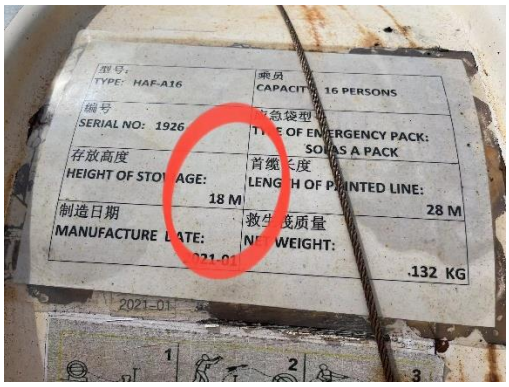
PSC DETENTION RISK ON THE ACTUAL STOWAGE HEIGHT OF LIFERAFTS EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM STOWAGE HEIGHT

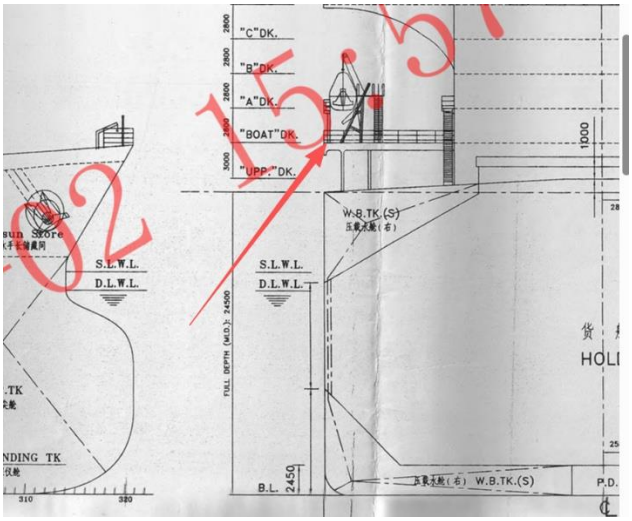
It has been noted that a vessel has recently been detained during PSC inspections and deemed the responsibility of the RO due to the actual stowage height of liferafts exceeding the maximum stowage height.

CASE STUDY

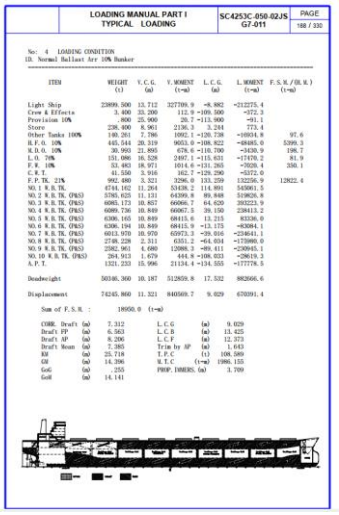
On 1 September 2025, during a PSC inspection in South Korean, documents such as the general arrangement plan, typical loading conditions, liferaft certificates, and service reports have been verified. It was found that the maximum stowage height of the vessel's liferafts is 18 meters, but the actual stowage height on board is significantly greater than 18 meters. The PSCO determined that the vessel's liferafts did not comply with the requirements of IMO LSA Code 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.3.2. As a result, the vessel has been detained with RO responsibility.



The liferafts equipped on board



General Arrangement Plan



Ballast Arrival Condition

CAUSES ANALYSIS

Requirements of LSA Code:

4.1.1.2 The liferaft shall be so constructed that when it is dropped into the water from a height of 18m, the liferaft and its equipment will operate satisfactorily. If the liferaft is to be stowed at a height of more than 18m above the waterline in the lightest seagoing condition, it shall be of a type which has been satisfactorily drop-tested from at least that height.

4.1.3.2 The liferaft shall be fitted with an efficient painter of length equal to not less than 10m plus the distance from the stowed position to the waterline in the lightest seagoing condition or 15m whichever is the greater.

Upon further investigation, it was found that during the original design, the maximum stowage height of the liferafts on board was 25 meters, which met the requirements. However, when the liferafts were subsequently replaced, the requirements for the maximum stowage height of liferafts was not taken into account, leading to this deficiency.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHINA CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY

When replacing liferafts, the shipping company shall pay attention to verifying the actual stowage height of the liferafts on board and compare it with the maximum stowage height specified in the liferaft product certificate to ensure that the actual stowage height does not exceed the maximum stowage height. The actual stowage height of liferafts can be verified through the following methods:

1. Check the Ship's Equipment Safety Detailed Record (Form SEr);

2. Check the distance between the liferaft stowage deck and the baseline in the general arrangement plan, subtract the ship's stern draft under the ballast arrival condition specified in the loading manual, and finally add the height from the liferaft stowage position to the deck.

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