



PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS

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Directive No. SOLAS/03

MEANS OF EMBARKATION ON AND DISEMBARKATION FROM SHIPS

Issued under the enabling power of the Ministerial Resolution 20/2016

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1 Introduction

(1) With reference to;

- PMA resolution no. 8/2016: regarding the implementation of the requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and its amendments
- SOLAS 1974, Regulation II-1/3-9: means of embarkation on and disembarkation from ships
- MSC.1/Circ.1331 :Guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of means of embarkation and disembarkation
- ISO 7061:1993 : Shipbuilding – aluminum shore gangways for seagoing vessels
- ISO 7364:1983 : Shipbuilding and marine structures – deck machinery – accommodation ladder winches.
- ISO 5488:1979 : Shipbuilding – accommodation ladders

(2) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulation II-1/3-9 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention requires signatory flag States to give effect to the provision regarding means of embarkation and disembarkation on all ships and shall be periodically inspected, maintained and surveyed in accordance with the IMO standard.

(3) The Ports and Maritime Affairs (PMA) requires each applicable Bahraini registered ship to comply with the provision of the Regulation II-1/3-9 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention.



- (4) This directive provides an instruction regarding the implementation of the new SOLAS Reg.II-1/3-9 "Means of embarkation on and disembarkation from ships", Information regarding this matter should be read in conjunction with MSC.1/Circ.1331 "Guidelines for construction, installation, maintenance and inspection/survey of means of embarkation and disembarkation". All flag State surveyor, port State control inspector, ship owners, ship operators, managers, masters, owners' representatives and recognised organisations shall be guided accordingly.

2 Construction Standards

- (1) Accommodation ladders and gangways for installation onboard ships constructed on or after 1st January 2010 shall conform to the international standards ISO 5488:1979 "Shipbuilding – accommodation ladders" and ISO 7061:1993 "Shipbuilding – aluminum shore gangways for seagoing vessels" as specified in MSC.1/Circ.1331. Such accommodation ladders and gangways shall be in possession of a Statement of Conformity issued by the shipyard or the manufacturer.
- (2) Replacement accommodation ladders and gangways for use on ships constructed before 1st January 2010 should comply with the guidance contained in MSC.1/Circ.1331 as far as is reasonably practicable.
- (3) The structure of the accommodation ladders and gangways and their fittings and attachments should be such as to allow regular inspection, maintenance of all parts and, if necessary, lubrication of their pivot pin. Special care should be taken to ensure that the welding connection works are properly performed.
- (4) The construction and test of accommodation ladder winches should be in accordance with applicable international standards such as ISO 7364:1983 Shipbuilding and marine structures – deck machinery – accommodation ladder winches.
- (5) In the context of spacing of steps in accommodation ladders PMA accepts steps with a spacing of between 300 to 350mm measured tangentially to the step noses.



3 Monthly Maintenance and Inspection

- (1) Monthly maintenance and inspection of the accommodation ladders, gangways, associated winches and ancillary fittings may be carried out by the ship's crew in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- (2) The ship should have a log of the same in line with the ISM requirements.

4 Annual Thorough Examination

During the annual surveys required by SOLAS Regulations I/7 and I/8, the items identified in MSC.1/Circ.1331 should be thoroughly examined for satisfactory condition.

5 Five-Yearly Survey

- (1) For ships constructed on or after 1st January 2010 the first five-yearly survey should be carried out in conjunction with the delivery of the ship and thereafter in conjunction with the Class Renewal Survey.
- (2) For ships constructed before 1st January 2010 the first five-yearly survey should be carried out at the first scheduled Class Renewal Survey on or after 1 January 2010;
- (3) At every five yearly survey, following the satisfactory completion of the scheduled annual thorough examination, the accommodation ladder, gangway and winch shall be subjected to an operational test with the specified maximum operational load.
- (4) In instances where maximum load is unknown, the maximum allowed distributed load should be established by loading the accommodation ladder or gangway until the maximum allowable deflection is reached. The maximum distributed load is to be limited to 735 N/step for accommodation ladders and 4000N/m² for gangways;
- (5) The established maximum distributed load should be used in the static test of the accommodation ladder arrangement, including the suspension arrangement and holding capacity of the winch.



6 Length of Accommodation Ladders

- (1) Notwithstanding Paragraph 3.4.1 of MSC.1/Circ.1331, for ships constructed or after 1st January 2010 the required length of accommodation ladders shall be determined on the basis of the actual ballast arrival condition of the ship in lieu of the lightship condition as defined in SOLAS Regulation III/3.13.
- (2) For ships constructed before 1st January 2010 the length of accommodation ladders should not be subject to verification unless, for safety reasons, the arrangement warrants otherwise.

7 Records

- (1) On all ships records of inspections, maintenance and repair of each appliance should be maintained and be readily available on board for inspection. The records should contain, as a minimum, the information outlined in MSC.1/Circ.1331 (Ref. Para. 4.6)
- (2) The record-keeping obligation should be appropriately addressed within the ship's Safety Management System.

8 Revision History:

Revision No. 1 of the present Directive is the first revision.

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Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs
27th December 2016