



INFORMATION LETTER 004-2010

to

all Owners, Managing Owners, operating ships and crew under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda;

all Masters and Crew serving on board vessels under the Antigua and Barbuda flag;

all Classification Societies acting as Recognized Organizations for and on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

<p>Means of embarkation and disembarkation: SOLAS 1974 (as amended) Chapter II-1, Regulation 3.9</p>

The above cited regulation (adopted by Resolution MSC.256 (84)) establishes approved means of embarkation and disembarkation on ships for use in ports and for port related operations, such as gangways and accommodation ladders, which must be installed on ships constructed (having their keel laid) on or after **1 January 2010**.

The construction, installation, testing and maintenance of such means of embarkation and disembarkation must be in accordance with MSC.1/Circular 1331.

Ships constructed before **1 January 2010** having gangways and accommodation ladders fitted, which are replaced after this date must, so far as reasonable and practicable, comply with MSC 1/Circular 1331.

The means of embarkation and disembarkation as regards to their location should be:

- Clear of the working area; and
- Away from cargo or other suspended solids which may pass overhead

Maintenance onboard ships shall be carried out on all fall wires used in means of embarkation and disembarkation as specified in SOLAS Chapter III Regulation 20.4. Monthly inspections are required to be carried out and recorded in the logbook (with special regard for areas passing through sheaves). Fall wires will be required to be renewed when necessary due to deterioration or at intervals of **NOT** more than five years, whichever is earlier.

Notwithstanding the foregoing SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 23 adopted by Resolution A. 889(21), the recommendation on the Pilot Transfer Arrangements, also provides specific guidance on accommodation ladders used in conjunction with pilot ladders and Recognized Organizations shall inspect such arrangements in accordance with these provisions.

Inspections will be carried out as part of Cargo Ship Safety Equipment surveys. A five yearly operational load test will be required to be performed on all accommodation ladders, gangways and winches.

The Administration may, on a case by case, deem compliance with a particular provision to be impractical in the following instances:

1. If the vessel has small freeboards and is provided with boarding ramps or
2. If the vessel is engaged in voyages between designated ports where appropriate shore accommodation /embarkation ladders (platforms) are provided.

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