

GUIDANCE NOTE 03/2019 (Rev 1)

BEST PRACTICE IN RECOVERING DAVIT LAUNCHED LIFEBOATS AND RESCUE BOATS¹

To: Ship Owners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters and Officers of Cayman Islands Ships

1. Background

1.1 This Guidance Note is issued to improve awareness of best practice for the recovery of davit launched lifeboats and rescue boats upon completion of drills.

2. Fall Preventer Devices

2.1 This Red Ensign Group has become aware that some operators are using information contained in MSC.1/Circ. 1327 "Guidelines for the Fitting and Use of Fall Preventer Devices (FPD's)" to inform their lifeboat and rescue boat recovery procedures. We would like to bring attention to the fact that as per the preamble these guidelines were written as an interim risk mitigation measure, only to be used in connection with on-load release hooks, pending the implementation of improved hook designs with enhanced safety features as required by Resolution MSC. 317(89). As such, once the hooks have been modified or replaced, these guidelines no longer apply.

2.2 The above notwithstanding, there have been a number of near misses when lifeboat hooks have not been re-set properly and, even though the hooks indicated as being locked and secure, the lifeboat has fallen once the locking pins were removed.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To mitigate this risk it is recommended that the following recovery procedure be implemented:

- Lifeboat is reconnected to falls and hooks are re-set
- Lifeboat is hoisted approximately 1 metre clear of the water
- Hoisting operation is stopped and the hooks pins are inserted
- Lifeboat is then fully recovered

¹ This Guidance Note has been developed through the Red Ensign Group of shipping registries (www.redensigngroup.org)