



# Veritas Register of Shipping Ltd.

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## Circular Letter 011/2025

Date: 01.12.2025

Attn.: VRS Authorized Surveyors, Shipowners, Ship operator, Managing Companies

Subject: AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

As per IMO Resolution MSC.532(107), "AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974", related to Chapters II-1, "*Lifting appliance*" and "*Anchor handling winch*" shall enter into the force on 1 January 2026.

### **Anchor handling winches:**

- installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall be designed, constructed, installed and tested to the satisfaction of the Administration, based on the Guidelines for anchor handling winches (MSC.1/Circ.1662) and be permanently marked and provided with documentary evidence for the safe working load (SWL);
- installed before 1 January 2026 shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based on Guidelines for anchor handling winches (MSC.1/Circ.1662) no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026;
- Administrations will need to determine to what extent the new regulation applies to those lifting appliances which have a SWL below 1,000 kg.

**Lifting appliances** installed before 1 January 2026 shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based on Guidelines for lifting appliances (MSC.1/Circ.1663) and shall be permanently marked and provided with documentary evidence for the safe working load (SWL) no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

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### **CHAPTER II-1**

### **CONSTRUCTION – STRUCTURE, SUBDIVISION AND STABILITY, MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS Part A General**

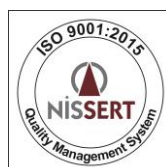
#### **Regulation 2**

##### *Definitions*

Par. 30 *Lifting appliance* means any load-handling ship's equipment:

- .1 used for cargo loading, transfer or discharge;
- .2 used for raising and lowering hold hatch covers or movable bulkheads;
- .3 used as engine-room cranes;
- .4 used as stores cranes;
- .5 used as hose handling cranes;
- .6 used for launch and recovery of tender boats and similar applications; and
- .7 used as personnel handling cranes.

Par. 31 *Anchor handling winch* means any winch for the purpose of deploying, recovering and repositioning anchors and mooring lines in subsea operations.



Par. 32 *Loose gear* means an article of ships equipment by means of which a load can be attached to a lifting appliance or an anchor handling winch but which does not form an integral part of the appliance or load.

Par. 33 The expression *installed on or after 1 January 2026*, as provided in regulation 3-13, means:

- .1 for ships the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2026, any installation date on the ship; or
- .2 for ships other than those specified in .1, including those constructed before 1 January 2009, a contractual delivery date for lifting appliance or anchor handling winches, or in the absence of a contractual delivery date, the actual delivery date of the lifting appliance or anchor handling winches to the ship on or after 1 January 2026.

## **Part A-1 Structure of ships**

The following new regulation is added after existing regulation II-1/3-12:

### **Regulation 3-13**

*Lifting appliances and anchor handling winches*

#### **1. Application**

1.1 Unless expressly provided otherwise, this regulation shall apply to lifting appliances and anchor handling winches, and loose gear utilized with the lifting appliances and the anchor handling winches.

1.2 Notwithstanding the above, this regulation **does not apply** to:

- .1 lifting appliances on ships certified as MODUs;
- .2 lifting appliances used on offshore construction ships, such as pipe/cable laying/repair or offshore installation vessels, including ships for decommissioning work, which comply with standards acceptable to the Administration;
- .3 integrated mechanical equipment for opening and closing hold hatch covers; and
- .4 life-saving launching appliances complying with the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code.

1.3 The Administration shall determine to what extent the provisions of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.4 do not apply to lifting appliances which have a safe working load below 1,000 kg.

#### **2. Design, construction and installation**

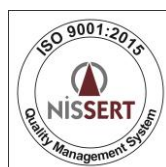
2.1 Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall be:

- .1 designed, constructed and installed in accordance with the requirements of a classification society which is recognized by the Administration in accordance with the provisions of regulation XI-1/1 or standards acceptable to the Administration which provide an equivalent level of safety; and
- .2 load tested and thoroughly examined after installation and before being taken into use for the first time and after repairs, modifications or alterations of major character.

2.2 Anchor handling winches installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall be designed, constructed, installed and tested to the satisfaction of the Administration, based on the Guidelines developed by the Organization.

2.3 Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall be permanently marked and provided with documentary evidence for the safe working load (SWL).

2.4 Lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026 shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based on the Guidelines developed by the Organization and comply with paragraph 2.3 no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.



2.5 Anchor handling winches installed before 1 January 2026 shall be tested and thoroughly examined, based on the Guidelines developed by the Organization no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

### **3. Maintenance, operation, inspection and testing**

All lifting appliances and anchor handling winches, regardless of installation date, and all loose gear utilized with any lifting appliances and anchor handling winches, shall be operationally tested, thoroughly examined, inspected, operated and maintained, based on the Guidelines developed by the Organization.

### **4. Inoperative lifting appliances and anchor handling winches**

Except as provided in regulation I/11(c), while all reasonable steps shall be taken to maintain lifting appliances, anchor handling winches and loose gear to which this regulation applies in working order, malfunctions of that equipment shall not be assumed as making the ship unseaworthy or as a reason for delaying the ship in ports, provided that action has been taken by the master to take the inoperative lifting appliance or anchor handling winch into account in planning and executing a safe voyage.

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Kindly be guided accordingly.

Yours faithfully.

Kristina Melikyan

Chief Executive Officer

