

## Fitting of “Fall Preventer Devices” to Prevent Lifeboats From Accidental ON-load Release

In June 2009, the IMO published guidelines for the fitting and use of fall preventer devices (FPDs) which have been developed by the Maritime Safety Committee. See MSC.1/Circ. 1327.

To ensure safe operations and to avoid accidents with existing equipment on board “Fall Preventer Devices” (FPDs) shall be used to minimize the risk until new hook regulations come in force. MSC.1/Circ. 1327 applies only for existing on-load release hooks of davit-launched lifeboat. In case of an unintended release of the hook, the FPD prevents that the lifeboat falls into the water.

“Fall preventer devices” can be either

- Locking pins or
- Sling/ strops which will be fitted to the on-load release hook

### Hatecke’s operational instructions

1. Hatecke advises that FPDs are not to be considered as necessary for Hatecke conventional lifeboats and rescue boats with built in ON/OFF-load release hooks in case
  - They have been inspected and serviced by the manufacturer or a maker’s representative in accordance with MSC.1/Circ. 1206 rev 01 annually or 5 yearly using genuine spare parts.
  - The crew/officers are operating and maintaining the equipment on a weekly/monthly basis and presuming they have been trained in these important disciplines.

The Notified Body confirmed that Hatecke DUPLEX ON/OFF-load release systems are safe and in full compliance with the new hook regulation LSA-Code 4.4.7.6 as drafted by the IMO in MSC 86/26 Add.2 / Annex 15/16 Consequently, you do not need FPD in case that Hatecke DUPLEX ON/OFF-load release hooks are installed on board.

2. Use of FPDs designed as strops or slings

**FPDs designed as fixed installed strops or slings are not allowed to be used in HATECKE conventional lifeboats or rescue boats with on/off-load release hooks.**

Explanation:

Strops or slings shall be fitted across the on-load release gear between a fixed strong point on the boat and the fall block ring or shackle. The FDP shall have a suitable length to ensure minimal drop.

The “Safe Working Load” (SWL) requirement for the FPD is equivalent to the total davit load (fully equipped boat with persons).

The maintenance lugs and hooks foundations of conventional lifeboats and rescue boats with built-in ON/OFF-load release hooks

- Are only for static load experienced when hanging off the empty lifeboat in the davits for maintenance and
- Are not strong enough for the dynamic loading of the fully laden boat which will be dropped from an undetermined height onto the lug with the resulting impact and pendulum effects imparting bending and twisting moments and loadings into the hook and its attachments / foundations to the boat.

FPDs designed as strops or slings are allowed to be used in small open rescue boats with slings where the ON/OFF-load hook is attached to the davit wire fall and is a part of the davit system. In such condition the sling or strop should be attached to the long eye of the boat sling and to the wire fall of the davit system.

### 3. Use of FPD designed as locking pins

FPD devices as locking pin could be provided on special request of the owner for all existing Hatecke boats with built in on/off-load release hooks. In such case, the **modification of Hatecke hooks shall solely be done by Hatecke in Drochtersen.**

*Drochtersen, 2010-02-06*