

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY NO. 35-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: LIFEBOAT HOOK RELEASE CABLE CONNECTORS

Date: 3 November 2020

Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Marine Safety Advisory No. [22-19](#) describes an incident where loss of life occurred during a drill on a floating offshore facility when a lifeboat and personnel fell about 75 feet (23 meters) to the water. Although the investigation into this incident's causal factors is still in progress, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) has identified a potential hidden failure with hook release cable connectors and has published their findings in [Marine Safety Alert 03-20](#), *Check Your Lifeboat Cables*.

The RMI Maritime Administrator ("Administrator") concurs with the USCG recommendations contained in the Marine Safety Alert and encourages shipowners, operators, and Masters to:

- conduct thorough inspections of control cables between the release handle station and release hooks, and any other similar cables communicating between the release station and the hydrostatic interlock, if installed, looking for current damage and for potential hazards or other conditions that might compromise the cables in the future;
- replace cables that show signs of wear or damage to any layers;
- implement an inspection regime that allows for cable damage to be identified and, as necessary, for cables to be replaced in a timely manner;
- review the lifeboat and release mechanism operations manuals prior to conducting launch and recovery drills; and
- use safety pins during drills to prevent the hook-locking shaft from rotating, when they are approved as part of the release mechanism; and remove them after training or maintenance to ensure that lifeboats are stowed in the "ready to launch" condition.

For the Administrator's requirements on this subject see RMI Marine Notice [2-011-37](#), *Life Saving Appliances and Systems* and RMI Marine Notice [2-011-5](#), *Life-Saving Appliances and Equipment*.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.