

GUIDANCE NOTE 05/2012

**RESCUE BOAT RELEASE GEAR ON COMMERCIAL YACHTS OF 500 GT
AND ABOVE**

To: OWNERS, MANAGERS AND MASTERS OF CAYMAN ISLANDS SHIPS

This Guidance Note was previously issued as Shipping Notice 05/2012 and the content remains unchanged.
A copy of Shipping Notice 05/2012 is attached to, and forms part of, this Guidance Note.

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SHIPPING NOTICE 05/2012 (Rev 1)

RESCUE BOAT RELEASE GEAR ON COMMERCIAL YACHTS OF 500GT AND ABOVE

To: OWNERS, MANAGERS AND MASTERS OF CAYMAN ISLANDS COMMERCIAL YACHTS OF 500GT AND ABOVE.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 13.2.3.1 of the Large Yacht Code (both LY2 and LY3) requires that rescue boats and their launching appliances are approved in accordance with the IMO Life Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code). In the past, the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry (CISR) has issued "Type Approval" certificates for rescue boat and release hook combinations to Nautica International Inc and to Novurania. This was to facilitate the demand for more yacht compatible rescue boat systems. These approvals were specific to installations of yachts certified under the Large Yacht Code. The last of these type approvals expired in September 2009 and have not been renewed as approved rescue boat systems for yachts are now readily available.
- 1.2 The release hook arrangement covered by these approvals was for Umoe Schat-Harding BV ARH 23 release hooks. These hooks have full SOLAS and LSA Code approval for use with davit launched liferafts. These hooks are not LSA Code approved for use as the release gear for rescue boats.
- 1.3 As part of the approval process, these hook / boat combinations were extensively tested as a system and hence the approval covered both the boat and the hook. The ARH 23 Release Hook was chosen because few, if any, automatic release hooks approved under the LSA Code were readily available at that time.
- 1.4 There are now a number of automatic release hooks available with type approval under the LSA Code that can be readily deployed on yachts.
- 1.5 This Shipping Notice outlines the current situation with regard to ARH 23 release hooks installed onboard under the CISR type approval and the steps that should be taken if these are still in use, ARH 23 release hooks provided onboard after the expiry of the CISR type approval and the release hooks to be fitted to new yachts.

2. ORIGINAL BOAT / RELEASE HOOKS INSTALLED UNDER THE CISR TYPE APPROVAL

- 2.1 As the rescue boat / release hook combination was installed in accordance with the CISR type approval, such combinations can continue in service until either the release hook or the rescue boat need to be replaced. Evidence of type approval at the time of installation should be readily available onboard.
- 2.2 Should the ARH 23 release hook require replacement, it should be replaced with a release hook that is type approved for rescue boat service under the LSA Code. Should the original rescue boat be replaced, then the boat / release hook arrangement is no longer in accordance with the CISR type approval and the release hook should also be replaced by one type approved under the LSA Code.

3 ARH 23 RELEASE HOOKS FITTED AFTER 24 SEPTEMBER 2009

- 3.1 As these release hooks were installed after the expiry of the CISR type approval, they cannot be considered as approved for rescue boat service. These release hooks should be replaced by hooks type approved under the LSA Code for rescue boat service no later than the next Large Yacht Code / Safety Equipment survey onboard.

4 RELEASE HOOKS TO BE FITTED TO NEW YACHTS

- 4.1 The release hooks fitted for rescue boat service to new yachts must be type approved for rescue boat service under the LSA Code.