



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

Marine Notice

No. 7-041-4

Rev. Feb/2025

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**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Simulated Launching Procedures for Free-Fall Lifeboats**

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2024, Chapter III, Regulation 19.3.4.4
  - (b) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1578](#)**, *Guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats*, issued 19 June 2017
  - (c) **RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#))**

## **PURPOSE**

This Marine Notice (MN) provides an outline of essential procedural steps to safely carry out simulated launching drills of free-fall style lifeboats.

These steps are general in nature, and the lifeboat manufacturer's instructions must always be followed before conducting simulated launching.

This MN supersedes Rev. Apr/2011. A new §2.2 has been inserted and International Maritime Organization (IMO) Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1578](#) has been incorporated in this revision.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This MN applies to all Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged vessels fitted with lifeboats arranged for free-fall launching. The Masters of these vessels must exercise the crew in abandon ship drills and safety training in accordance with RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#)), §7.41.6 (i) and (j).

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **1.0 Scope**

- 1.1 Simulated launching must always be carried out with lifeboats and launching appliances designed to accommodate it and for which the manufacturer has provided instructions.

- 1.2 Simulated launching must be carried out under the supervision of a responsible person who must be an officer experienced in these procedures, and must be conducted without the physical activation of the free-fall release system.
- 1.3 Testing of release systems should be separate to and not carried out during simulated launching drills.

## **2.0 Typical Simulated Launching Sequence**

- 2.1 Check equipment and documentation to ensure that all components of the lifeboat and launching appliances are in good operational condition.
- 2.2 Ensure that all personnel involved in the drill are familiar with the operating manuals, posters, and signs.
- 2.3 Ensure that the restraining device(s) provided by the manufacturer for simulated launching are installed and secure and that the free-fall release mechanism is fully and correctly engaged.
- 2.4 Establish and maintain good communication between the assigned operating crew and the responsible person.
- 2.5 Disengage lashings, gripes, and so forth, installed to secure the lifeboat for sea or for maintenance, except those required for simulated free-fall.
- 2.6 Participating crew board the lifeboat and fasten their seatbelts under the supervision of the responsible person.
- 2.7 All crew disembark the lifeboat.
- 2.8 Return the lifeboat to the condition it was in prior to step provided in §2.4. Ensure that the lifeboat is returned to its normal stowed condition. Remove any restraining or recovery devices used only for the simulated launch procedure.

## **3.0 Manufacturer's Instructions**

Simulated launching must be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.