



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-50

Mar/2024

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

SUBJECT: Use and Maintenance of Non-Steel Wires/Falls on Yachts for
Lifeboat/Rescue Boat/Life Raft Davits

Reference: (a) SOLAS, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974*
(b) LSA Code, *International Life-Saving Appliance Code*
(c) RMI [Yacht Code 2021](#) (MI-103)
(d) RMI Marine Notice [2-011-37](#), *Lifesaving Appliances and Systems*

PURPOSE

This Marine Notice (MN) addresses the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator's ("the Administrator") procedures for replacing corrosion and rotation-resistant steel wire ropes with fiber ropes. It supersedes Rev. Jan/2020 and clarifies equipment inspection and verification.

This MN complements MN [2-011-37](#) which addresses lifesaving appliances and systems under SOLAS.

BACKGROUND

Designers, naval architects, shipyards, and other stake holders increasingly request approval to use nonstandard materials on board yachts. In line with the technical evolution in the yacht industry, fiber rope strength and durability has been widely proven in the marine and other industries. Heavy loads are lifted and suspended with these ropes. The Administrator has no objection to using ropes made from alternative materials, provided that the requirements below are met.

APPLICABILITY

This MN applies to all yachts regardless of registration type or Gross Tonnage.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Approval of Equipment

The fiber rope must be accompanied by a marine type-approval to show that it is suitable for use in the marine environment. Its material must have proven properties for low environmental degradation, be covered with protective sheathing to prevent impregnation by salt crystals, and be protected from abrasion.

2.0 Inspection and verifications

- 2.1 The Classification Society, or for unclassified yachts the Appointed Representative (AR), must verify that the falls have been maintained and/or replaced within the service or replacement intervals as specified in §5.0 - §6.0 below.
- 2.2 Yachts not subject to compliance with SOLAS Chapter III must have these verifications of the falls carried out as part of the annual Compliance Verification by the attending inspector.

3.0 Breaking Strength

- 3.1 The fiber rope breaking strength Factor of Safety must meet the Administrator's requirements.

	Factor of Safety
LSA Code	greater than 6
Administrator's requirements	more than 8 (not greater than 10)

- 3.2 The magnitude of the loads used during the supplier or manufacturer's fiber rope strength test raises the risk of creating latent defects. It is not appropriate to perform the required load test to the actual fall. The Administrator will accept a load test performed on a rope sample which comes from the same drum. These tests must also confirm that any splices used in the fall are adequate. The same type of splice(s) must be used in the rope sample test.

4.0 Onboard Load Test

In accordance with the LSA Code, the complete davit or crane arrangement as installed onboard must be subject to an onboard load test. The static load test must be 1.5 times the Safe Working Load (SWL) and the dynamic load test must be 1.1 times the SWL of the fall.

5.0 Inspection of Falls

The falls must be inspected monthly as part of the regular onboard inspections by the yacht's crew. Details on the results of the inspections shall be logged and evaluated as per the ISM/SMS procedures or mini-ISM procedures of the yacht. For yachts not required to have an ISM system or mini-ISM system, the results must be logged in the maintenance records.

6.0 Replacement of Falls

- 6.1 The falls must be replaced at an interval specified by the manufacturer. This must not be longer than 18 months. The practice of “end for ending” falls must not be used.
- 6.2 The falls must be immediately replaced if any significant damage or abrasion is found. A spare set of falls must be carried on board at all times for this purpose.