



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-62

Dec/2025

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

**SUBJECT: Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches**

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2024
  - (b) **ILO**, *International Labour Organization Convention, Convention No.152 - Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention, 1979 (No. 152)*
  - (c) **IMO Resolution [MSC.532\(107\)](#)**, *Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974*, adopted 8 June 2023
  - (d) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1662](#)**, *Guidelines for anchor handling winches*, issued 27 June 2023
  - (e) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#)**, *Guidelines for lifting appliances*, issued 28 June 2023, as corrected by [MSC.1/Circ.1663/Corr.1](#), issued on 8 January 2026
  - (f) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1696](#)**, *Unified Interpretation of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.2.4*, issued 28 August 2025
  - (g) **RMI Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#)**, *Organizations Acting on Behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator*
  - (h) **RMI [Technical Circular 3](#)**, *Voluntary Compliance with ILO Convention No. 152*
  - (i) **RMI Mobile Offshore Unit Standards ([MI-293](#))**

**PURPOSE**

This Marine Notice (MN) implements the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator's (the "Administrator") requirements for the design, construction and installation, operation, inspection, testing, and maintenance of lifting appliances and anchor handling winches. It includes the latest amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) (Regulation II-1/3-13), which will enter into force on 1 January 2026 (International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution [MSC.532\(107\)](#)).

## APPLICABILITY

This MN applies to lifting appliances and anchor handling winches and loose gear used with lifting appliances and anchor winches based on their installation dates.<sup>1</sup>

This MN does **not** apply to:

- A. lifting appliances on ships certified as Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) under the RMI Mobile Offshore Unit Standards ([MI-293](#));<sup>2</sup>
- B. lifting appliances used on offshore construction ships, such as pipe/cable laying/repair or offshore installation vessels, including ships for decommissioning work;
- C. integrated mechanical equipment for opening and closing hold hatch covers;
- D. life-saving launching appliances complying with the International Life-saving Appliance (LSA) Code;
- E. traditional anchor windlasses and winches used for the handling of a ship's own anchors and mooring lines; and
- F. private yachts, except those yachts carrying a SOLAS Statement of Voluntary Compliance or an RMI Yacht Code Statement of Voluntary Compliance.

The Administrator does **not** require lifting appliances with a safe working load (SWL) below 1,000 kg to comply with the SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.2 provisions for design, construction and installation. Certification of any lifting appliance below 1,000 kg in accordance with any Class Rules is voluntary.

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1.0 Lifting Appliances

1.1 Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026<sup>3</sup> must be:

- .1 designed, constructed, and installed in accordance with the requirements of an RMI-authorized Recognized Organization (RO), or acceptable standards which provide an equivalent level of safety;
- .2 load tested and thoroughly examined after installation and before being taken into use for the first time and after repairs, modifications, or alterations of a major character;<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> Lifting appliances, anchor handling winches, and loose gear are defined in SOLAS Regulations II-1/2.30 - II-1/2.32.

<sup>2</sup> The Administrator's requirements for lifting devices onboard Mobile Offshore Units are in the [MI-293](#).

<sup>3</sup> Refer to SOLAS Regulation II-1/2.33 for the definition of "installed on or after 1 January 2026."

<sup>4</sup> Refer to §3.2.1.3 of IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#).

- .3 permanently marked and provided with documentary evidence for the SWL.
- 1.2 Lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026 must be tested and thoroughly examined, based on the IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#), and comply with above §1.1.3 no later than the date of the first renewal survey<sup>5</sup> as applicable to the relevant certificates on or after 1 January 2026. Thereafter they must be subject to a thorough examination annually<sup>6</sup> and on completing any load test.
- 1.3 Where a thorough examination is not part of the renewal or annual survey, verification that thorough examination of lifting appliances and loose gear has been conducted or completed to the satisfaction of the RO should take place during the renewal survey under SOLAS Regulation I/7 or the annual survey under SOLAS Regulation I/10, as applicable.
- 1.4 Maintenance, inspection, and operational testing
- Lifting appliances, regardless of installation date, and all loose gear utilized with any lifting appliances, must be operationally tested, thoroughly examined, inspected, operated, and maintained based on IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#).
- 1.5 A Register of Ship's Lifting Appliances and Cargo Handling Gear, with the certificates of test and thorough examination of lifting appliances and/or loose gear attached to the Register must be maintained and placed onboard.
- .1 In IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#), Appendices 1, 2, and 3 have samples of the certificates and a form of the Register.
- .2 The unified interpretation of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.2.4, as set out in IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1696](#), facilitates the uniform documentation of load testing and thorough examination for existing non-certified lifting appliances (installed before 1 January 2026).

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<sup>5</sup> The first renewal survey for non-SOLAS vessels is considered the first renewal survey for their National Document of Compliance (NDOC), Compliance Certificate, or Statement of Voluntary Compliance respectively.

<sup>6</sup> For existing non-certified lifting appliances (installed before 1 January 2026), refer to the unified interpretation contained in IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1696](#). To comply with paragraph 3.2.2.1.2 of IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#), the annual thorough examination may be recorded in the Register of Lifting Appliances and Cargo Handling Gear (see Note 2(b) in Appendix 3 of the guidelines).

- .3 A voluntary Cargo Gear Certificate or Record under the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. [152](#)<sup>7</sup> may be maintained until 31 December 2025. Any further record keeping on or after 1 January 2026 must be in accordance with IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#).

## 2.0 Anchor Handling Winches

### 2.1 Design, construction, and installation

Anchor handling winches installed on or after 1 January 2026, must be designed, constructed, installed, and tested in accordance with IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1662](#). All loose gear utilized with the anchor handling winches must be designed and manufactured in accordance with the IMO guidelines.

### 2.2 Testing and examination

2.2.1 Anchor handling winches installed before 1 January 2026 must be tested and thoroughly examined, based on IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1662](#), no later than the date of the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026.

2.2.2 Anchor handling winches and associated equipment must be operationally tested annually and at five-year intervals according to the manufacturer's recommendation and the requirements or recommendations of the RO. The annual test must include function tests of all equipment. The RO must witness the five-year test.

2.2.3 Anchor handling winches and associated equipment must be subject to a thorough examination to the satisfaction of the RO during:

- .1 annual surveys required by SOLAS Regulations I/7 for passenger ships and I/10 for cargo ships for harmony of survey intervals;
- .2 before re-entering service after any structural repairs; or
- .3 modifications of a major character and after load testing

### 2.3 Maintenance, inspection, and operational testing

Beginning 1 January 2026, anchor handling winches, regardless of installation date, and all loose gear utilized with any anchor handling winches, must be operationally tested, thoroughly examined, inspected, operated and maintained based on IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1662](#).

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<sup>7</sup> The ILO Governing Body has determined that Convention No. [152](#) may be denounced 5 December 2031 - 5 December 2032. See RMI [Technical Circular 3](#).

## 2.4 Record keeping

2.4.1 Records of thorough examination and testing must be documented in any convenient form, provided each entry:

- .1 includes the necessary information;
- .2 is clearly legible; and
- .3 is authenticated by the competent person.<sup>8</sup>

2.4.2 The relevant RO form or equivalent forms for documenting the thorough examination and testing must be considered for use.

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<sup>8</sup> An RMI-authorized RO for a vessel is considered to be the ‘competent person’ as specified in IMO Circulars [MSC.1/Circ.1662](#) and [MSC.1/Circ.1663](#). See Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#).