



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 100

WIRES FOR LIFEBOAT, RESCUE BOAT AND APPLIANCE LAUNCHED LIFE RAFT FALLS

**Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations,
Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and
Masters**

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin is intended to provide guidance on the maintenance of wires for falls used in launching arrangements, in accordance with SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 20.4.
- 1.2. This Bulletin should be read in conjunction with IMO Resolutions MSC.216(82) and MSC.218(82) and IMO Circulars MSC.1/Circ.1205, MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 and MSC.1/Circ.1215.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Bulletin applies to the wires use on lifeboats, rescue boats and appliance-launched life rafts on all Bahamian ships.

3. Turning of Wires End-for-end

- 3.1. As per SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 20.4, falls used in launching shall be inspected periodically and renewed when necessary due to deterioration or after not more than 5 years, whichever is earlier.
- 3.2. The previous requirement for wires to be turned end-for-end at intervals of not more than 30 months and renewed after no more than 5 years is no longer applicable, however Regulation 20.4 does not prohibit turning of wires end-for-end.

- 3.3. If the Company¹ chooses to end-for-end fall wires, special attention must be paid to the method of joining and terminating wires. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) recognises that there are a number of alternative methods that can be used to form these terminations and that the suitability of each type of connection for the intended service is varied. The Company shall ensure the correct method of joining and terminating the wires, taking into consideration any design or manufacturers' requirements.

4. Periodic Inspection

- 4.1. The amendment to SOLAS III/20.4, as set out in IMO Resolution MSC.216(82) requires that the falls used in launching shall be inspected periodically (i.e. at least annually) with special regard for areas passing through sheaves.
- 4.2. The acceptance of the periodic inspection is on the basis that the falls will be renewed when necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than 5 years, whichever is earlier.
- 4.3. The periodic inspection shall be carried out by competent persons² within the window before, or at the time of, the Safety Equipment survey.

5. Requirements for Periodic Inspections

- 5.1. The periodic inspection of every wire shall at least comply with the following specification:
- i. The survival craft must be lowered to the water, or the wire otherwise paid out, such that the wire bears no weight and there is no more than one layer left on the drum. The wire shall then be cleaned to facilitate a general inspection of its condition.
 - ii. The stationary parts of the wire, i.e. parts resting on or within sheaves and locking devices, must be given particularly close attention during that inspection.

¹ The "Company" means the owner or any other organisation or person, such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed responsibility for the operation of the ship.

² See BMA Information Bulletin No. 89 for further information on the definition of a "competent person".

- iii. Once the wire is clean it must be verified as free from corrosion and that grease had penetrated the whole wire. In the case of anti-rotational wires or wires with sheathed cores, the inspection, maintenance and effectiveness of greasing is to be determined in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
 - iv. After satisfactory inspection an approved type of grease shall be re-applied in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and the wire re-wound on the drum as recommended by the manufacturer.
- 5.2. Wires found with corrosion or deterioration to the extent that their strength is compromised must be replaced.

6. Stainless Steel Falls

- 6.1 Where no service life for marine use is specified by the manufacturer, stainless steel falls are subject to the same requirements as galvanised steel falls.
- 6.2 Where the manufacturer's stated service life for marine use exceeds five years the wire may be retained in use for the stated period subject to being turned end-for-end as specified by the manufacturers and to periodic inspections as set out in paragraph 5 above.

7. Record Keeping

- 7.1. Instructions, maintenance and record keeping shall be implemented through the ship's instructions for on-board maintenance of life saving appliances or a planned maintenance system which meets the requirements of SOLAS Chapter III.
- 7.2. Records must clearly state that the annual periodical inspection has been carried out and the results of the examination. If end-for-end turning of wires has been carried out this should also be recorded. The renewal of falls at the required intervals (according to the maintenance procedure adopted) must be included. These records must be verified by the surveyor attending for the Safety Equipment Survey.

8. Revision History

Rev.01 (09 July 2008) – References to mandatory turning of wires and early adoption of SOLAS amendments removed. Other editorial changes.

Rev.02 (11 February 2013) – Amended to take account of anti-rotational and plastic sheathed cored wires. Other editorial changes.