



SAFETY ALERT No. 17-17

BIMCO MARINE SAFETY GUIDE AVOID LIFEBOAT ACCIDENTS

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A recent pamphlet issued by BIMCO providing guidance for safe launching and recovery by using fall preventer devices (FPDs).
- 1.2. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in paragraph 2 to the attention of interested parties¹.

2. BIMCO Guidance on Avoiding Lifeboat Accidents

- 2.1. This pamphlet produced by BIMCO is available for download from the BIMCO website at:

<https://www.bimco.org/products/publications/free/avoid-life-boat-accidents>

- 2.2. The BIMCO guide on safe launching and recovery by using fall preventer devices published in September 2017 summarises the following:
 - i. The 'Avoid Lifeboat Accidents' pamphlet gives clear guidance on how to prevent accidents with lifeboats and rescue boats equipped with on-load release systems.
 - ii. It advises whether additional precautions in the form of FPDs are appropriate, and if so, when and how to use them safely and effectively when launching and recovering the boat.
 - iii. The BMA Incident Reporting & Investigations department have over the course of the last two years investigated a number of serious accidents resulting in fatal and serious injury as a result of inadequate precautions.

¹ This Safety Alert is provided by the Bahamas Maritime Authority with the aim of highlighting incidents, lessons learnt and to increase awareness, which may help avoid similar incidents occurring elsewhere. Any queries on the content of the information provided should be referred to the party providing the information.

- iv. This guide serves as a healthy reminder of potential risks involved when launching and recovering lifeboats and rescue craft in order to help you decide whether additional precautions in the form of Fall Preventer Devices are appropriate.
- v. Additional advice and guidance issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority within Bulletin 117 in January 2013 can be found at the following link:

<http://www.bahamasmaritime.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/117bulltn.pdf>

3. Validity

3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

4. Revision History

Rev.0 (20 September 2017) – First issue