



# 香 港 商 船 資 訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

### **Examination, Testing and Maintenance of Shipboard Lifting Appliances and Loose gear**

*To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders*

#### *Summary*

The purpose of this Note is to provide guidance on the examination, testing and maintenance of shipboard lifting appliances and loose gear. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 18/2006.

1. Ship masters should ensure that all lifting appliances and loose gear on board ships are safe for use. Lifting appliances and loose gear are defined as below:

- (a) Lifting appliances mean all stationary or mobile appliances used on board ships for suspending, raising or lowering loads or moving them from one position to another while suspended; and
- (b) Loose gear means any gear by means of which a load can be attached to a lifting appliance but which does not form an integral part of the appliance or load.

2. To ensure safety, all lifting appliances and loose gear on board should be periodically examined and tested and properly maintained. Provided hereunder is the guidance on the examination, testing and maintenance of lifting appliances and loose gear:

- (i) Every lifting appliance and every item of loose gear should be tested by a competent person before being put into use for the first time and after any substantial alteration or repair to any part liable to affect its safety. Upon completion of the test, the lifting appliance and the loose gear should be thoroughly examined by the competent person.
- (ii) Every lifting appliance and every item of loose gear should be thoroughly examined by a competent person at least once in every 12 months.
- (iii) Every lifting appliance should be retested by a competent person at least once in every five years. Upon completion of the test, the lifting appliance should be thoroughly examined by the competent person.
- (iv) The testing or re-testing as appropriate and examination of the lifting appliances or loose gear should adhere to a proper standard. As a general reference, the procedure for carrying out such test and examination is provided at Annex.
- (v) All the lifting appliances and loose gear should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
- (vi) Subsequent to any examination or testing of the lifting appliances and loose gear, a record duly signed by the competent person carrying out such examination or test should be kept on board. Any record of maintenance, alternation and damage repair should also be maintained.

3. The competent person undertaking the thorough examination and testing of the lifting appliances and loose gear should be a person possessing the knowledge and experience required for the performance of such examination and test, who may be the senior officers on board or surveyors from the recognized classification societies.

4. Attention is also drawn to the requirements of ILO Convention No.152 that regulates occupational safety and health of dock workers. Masters of Hong Kong registered vessels should ensure that proper certificates and register are kept on board for the ship cargo gears to avoid facing problems in port State control inspections in countries that apply ILO Convention No.152.

5. Shipowners, ship mangers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are requested to note the guidance and act accordingly as appropriate.

6. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 18/2006.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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