

MSC/Circular.570 - Recommendation on Maximum Stowage Height of Survival Craft on Passenger Ships - (adopted on 2 July 1991)

The Maritime Safety Committee

- .1. has noted that [regulation III/13.1.2](#) of the 1983 amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, requires that each survival craft shall be stowed as near the water surface as is safe and practicable;
- .2. has also noted that SOLAS [regulation III/13.1.2](#) closely specifies a minimum height for the stowage of survival craft;
- .3. recognizes the importance of the stowage height for survival craft on passenger ships being at a reasonably low level;
- .4. has observed a tendency in some passenger ship designs which result in survival craft being stowed at increasingly higher levels;
- .5. has also observed a trend in some recent passenger ship designs for survival craft to be stowed at a level which is more in keeping with the spirit of SOLAS [regulation III/13.1.2](#);
- .6. welcomes this recent trend towards a lower level of stowage for survival craft in both cruise and ro-ro ferry passenger ships;
- .7. recalls that the means of escape requirements in SOLAS [regulation II-2/28](#) provide an enclosed stairway to the embarkation deck, irrespective of whether it is on an upper or lower deck of the ship; and
- .8. concludes that problems associated with the stowage of survival craft at lower levels should not in most cases be insurmountable.

Recommendation

1. Based on the foregoing, the Committee recommends that the height of stowage of davit-launched survival craft on new passenger ships be given particular consideration at the design stage with the objective of arranging stowage at a level which is in keeping with the intention of [regulation III/13.1.2](#), while taking account of the minimum stowage height specified in that regulation, the escape provisions of [SOLAS regulation II-2/28](#), the size of the ship and the weather conditions likely to be encountered in its intended area of operation.
2. The Committee recognizes that a recommended height of stowage is unlikely to be suitable for all designs of passenger ship. However, the Committee considers there is merit in having a figure which can be used as a reference point by designers and for this purpose it recommends that the height from the davit head, when the davit-launched survival craft is at the embarkation position, to the waterline, when the ship is in the lightest seagoing condition, should, as far as practicable, not exceed 15 m.
3. The Committee urges Member Governments to implement this recommendation when approving the survival craft stowage arrangements on new passenger ships.