

Circular

1. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012), with a view to ensuring a uniform approach towards the application of SOLAS regulation III/1.5 concerning lifeboat on-load release mechanisms, approved a clarification of the term "first scheduled dry-docking" as contained in SOLAS [regulation III/1.5](#), as amended by [resolution MSC.317\(89\)](#), as follows:

"In the context of SOLAS [regulation III/1.5](#), the wording "first scheduled dry-docking" was introduced to mean the "first scheduled out of water survey of the ship's outer bottom". This explanation is to clarify that the on-load release mechanisms need not be compliant during an in-water survey, should this occur before a dry-docking."

2. Member Governments are invited to use the above clarification when applying the requirements of SOLAS [regulation III/1.5](#) and to bring it to the attention of all parties concerned and, in particular, port State control officers.

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