Circular 232/2020

To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Safety Bulletin on GEPA freefall realease system

Attachments:

- Service Bulletin NO:19/001.rev1 FREEFALL LIFEBOAT RELEASE SYSTEM MODIFICATION
- GEPA Modification (LSA Code IV,4.7.6) for Release Mechanism of Free Fall Lifeboats on Existing Vessels

Date: 20th May 2020

Summary

The manufacturers of **GEPA freefall lifeboats** have issued advice about the need to modify the release mechanism activation systems installed on the following types: **G-FFF1, G-FFF2** and **G-FFF3** (including FP variants).

A service bulletin, attached and issued by the manufacturers, advises that, because the emergency activation system is connected to the hydraulic control line from the primary activation system, such systems for the release mechanism are not considered to be independent as required by the LSA Code paragraph 4.7.6.1.

Modifications are therefore required and must be carried out by an approved service supplier in accordance with the manufacturer's modification procedure, attached.

Owners and operators with GEPA G-FFF1, G-FFF2 and G-FFF3 (including FP variant) freefall lifeboats are advised to contact GEPA and Vessel's RO to arrange for modifications to be done under survey, by an approved service supplier, in accordance with flag and Class requirements as applicable.

Manufacturers, owners and managers can address their queries to the following email address: technical@maritimecookislands.com

GEPA - FIBERGLAS SANAYI VE TICARET A.Ş.
GEPA - FIBERGLASS INDUSTRY & TRADE CO. INC.

DATE:26.07.2019

GEPA Modification (LSA Code IV,4.7.6) for Release Mechanism of Free Fall Lifeboats on Existing Vessels

The following are the applications that should be done according to the new modification for the ships in service. Required materials are listed as below:

MODIFICATION KIT CHECK LIST

Part	ITEM	MATERIAL	SPECIFICATION	CERTIFICATION
A	R2 3/8" 12 MM 250 CM FLEXIBLE HOSE S-90	Rubber hose + stainless steel couplings	Hydraulic HP rubber flexible hose WP330bar	Type Approval
B	R2 3/8" 12 MM 280 CM FLEXIBLE HOSE	Rubber hose + stainless steel couplings	Hydraulic HP rubber flexible hose WP330bar	Type Approval
C	63X400 bar MANOMETER	Stainless steel	0-400 BAR glycerine filled	Manufacturer ISO 9001:2015
D	3/8" Quick Coupling (male)	Stainless steel	WP 330 BAR	Manufacturer ISO 9001:2015
E	Emergency pump adapter	Stainless steel	WP 300 BAR	Type Approval
F	Main pump adapter	Stainless steel	WP 300 BAR	Type Approval
G	3/8" OR VALVE	Steel	WP 350 BAR	Manufacturer DOC
H	Compansation hose (PVC Clear) - 2mtr with 2 hose clamps	PVC - Transparent	2mm thickness, inner dia 8mm, Outer dia 12mm	N/A
I	Spare hydraulic pump gasket	Rubber	N/A	N/A
J	Installation manuel	Paper	N/A	N/A

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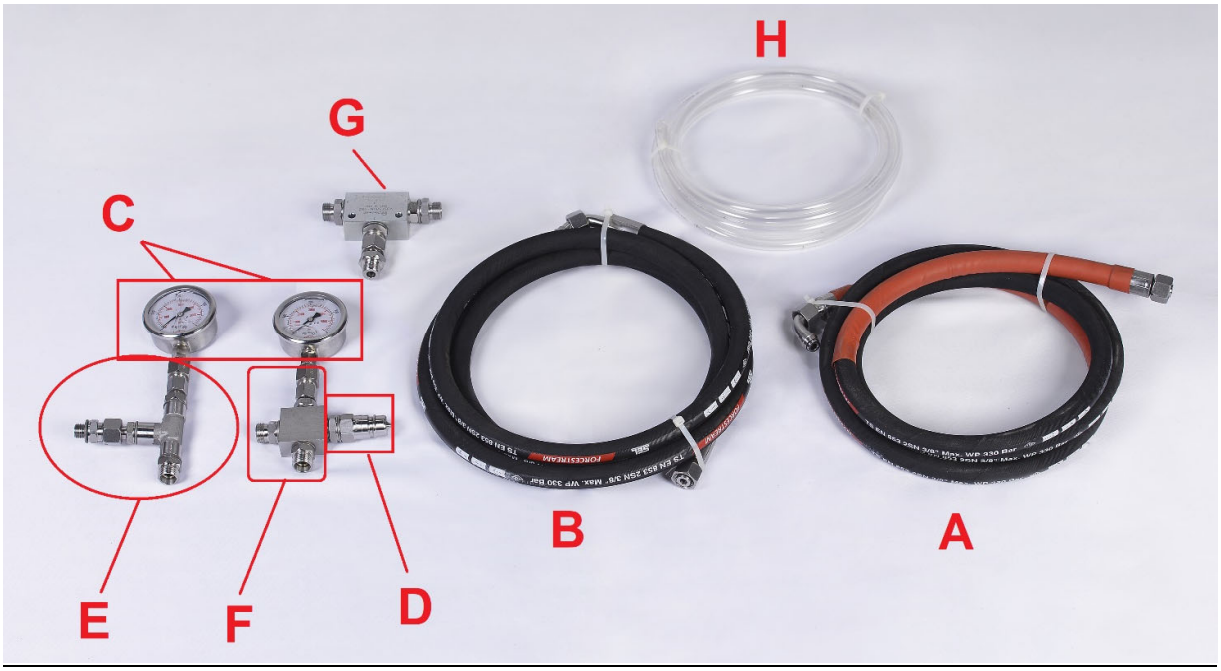
MODIFICATION PARTS



GENERAL VIEW

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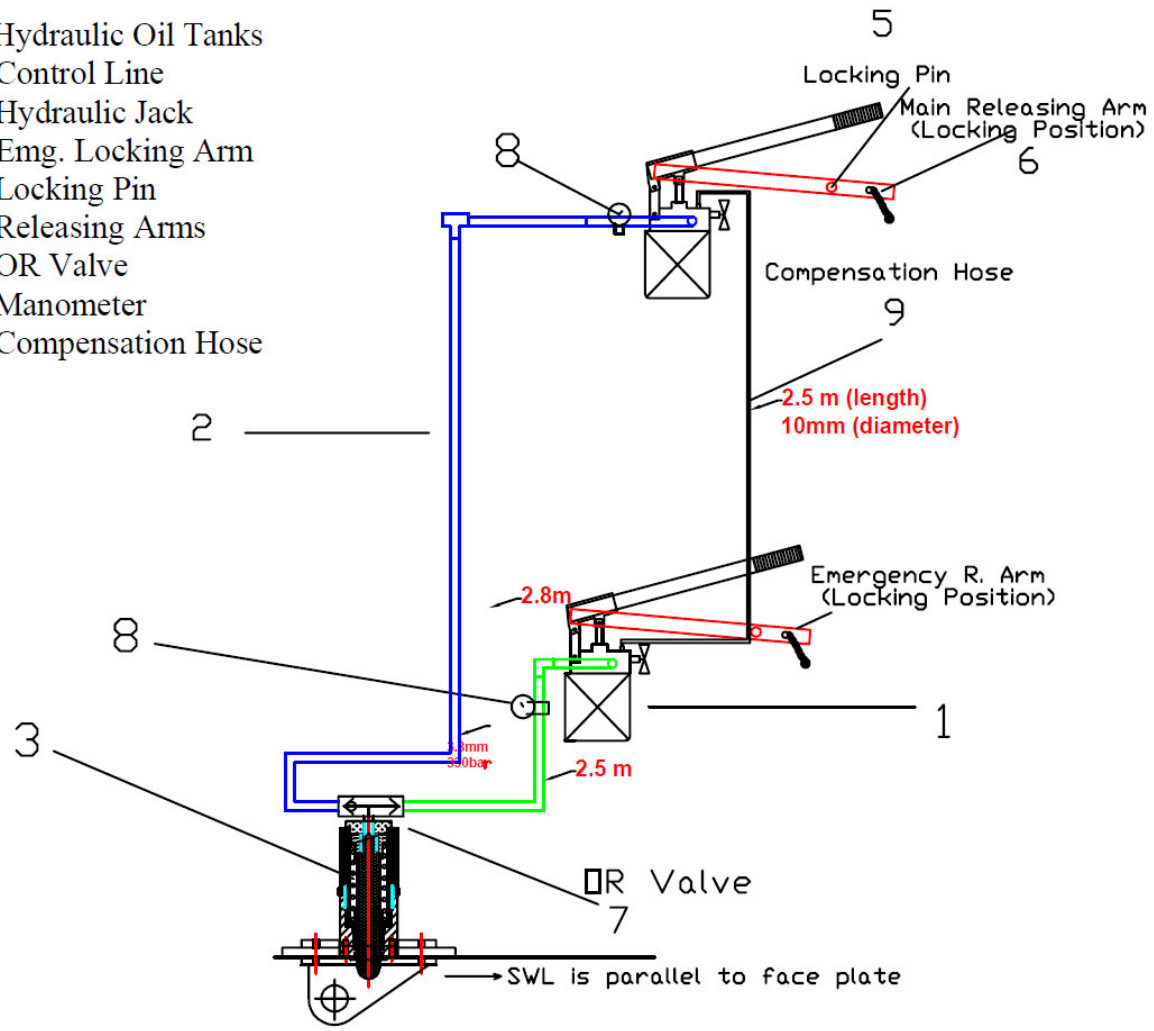
MODIFICATION PLAN

1-Hydraulic Oil Tanks
2-Control Line
3-Hydraulic Jack
4-Emg. Locking Arm
5-Locking Pin
6-Releasing Arms
7-OR Valve
8-Manometer
9-Compensation Hose



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RENEWAL PROCEDURE:

The following steps should be followed in order for the renewal procedure:

1. Hoses are to be removed from main/emergency pump.


2. Hose which is connected to hydraulic jack is also to be removed


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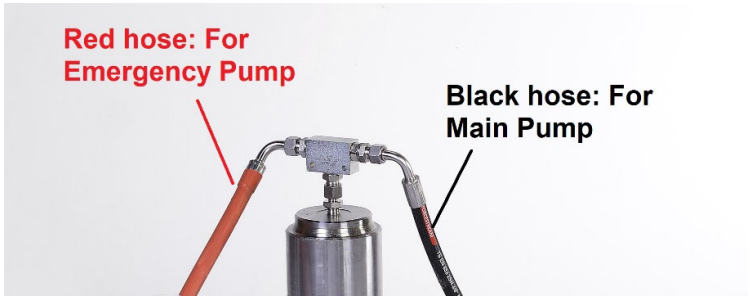
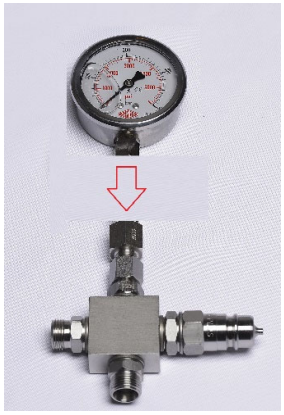
3. OR valve is to be fixed to hydraulic jack

4. Black color flexible hose is to be attached to OR valve input (left side) and red color flexible hose is to be attached to OR valve input (right side)



5. Manometers will be placed on 4 way hydraulic adaptor on Main/Emergency pumps



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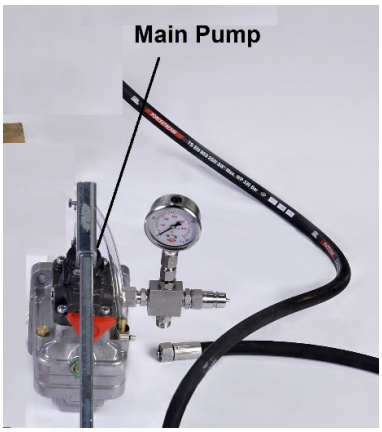
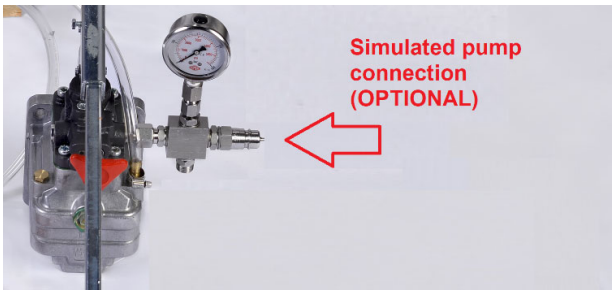
6. Black color hose is to be connected to Main pump inlet



7. Red color hose is to be connected to Emergency pump inlet

8. All required connection fittings must be fixed tightly and in correct order.Do not forget to use the gaskets for each connections.

9. Simulated Pump can be connected by Quick Jack (Optional during test time)



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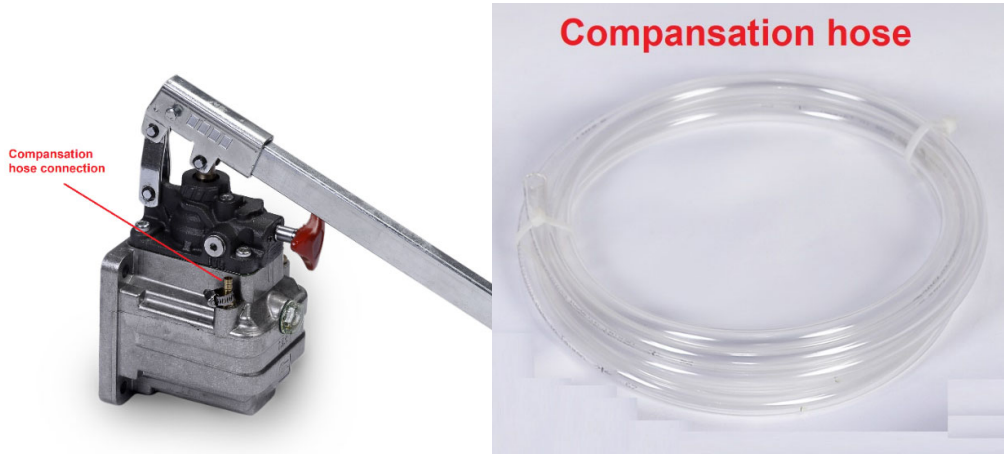
10. Compensation hose (PVC Plastic) will be connected to oil tanks between Main/Emergency Pumps.



11. Check the oil level inside oil tanks.Refill the tanks when necessary.

12. Change the gasket for hydraulic pumps if you see any leak during the testing

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FOLLOW UP EXAMINATION and FINAL CHECK :

After above modification is carried out, system should be controlled and tested to confirm that the release system is in satisfactory condition.

Release system should be checked as per below procedure;

A) Before you start, make sure that the freefall lifeboat is secured and attached to lifting slings.

B) Start to stroke the main pump and check that the manometer of main pump is increasing.At the same time check that the manometer of emergency pump is not increasing.

C) Test for verification of tightness of the modified installation to be performed.make sure there is no pressure drop on the manometer of whichever line is pressurized.

D) If you see any pressure increasing on both manometers, there must be a leakage on the line or the OR valve.You must release the pressure in the system and then check for the leakage.

E) Once the boat is securely released (simulated) reset the system and carry out the same procedure with the emergency pump as below.

F) Start to stroke the emergency pump and check that the manometer is increasing.At the same time check that the manometer of main pump is not increasing.

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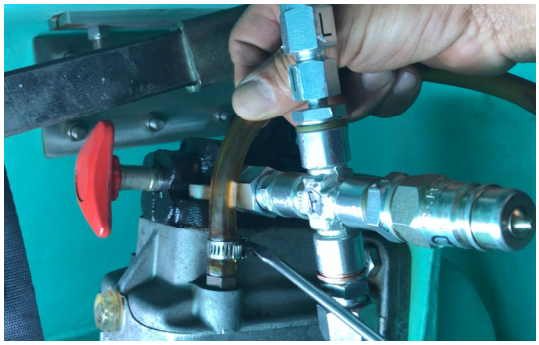
G) Check the function of the compensation hose between main and emergency pumps is in proper condition.



H) Complete the follow-up / modification statement after the modification job is carried out.

FOLLOW-UP / MODIFICATION STATEMENT

FOR GEPA FREEFALL RELEASE SYSTEM G-FFRM-01

Statement Number	
IMO Number of the Vessel	

FREEFALL LIFEBOAT	Type	
	Serial Number	
	Capacity	
	Year of Manufacture	

RELEASE MECHANISM FOR LIFEBOAT

Module B Certificate No	
Serial Number	
Manufacturer	**GEPA FIBERGLASS**
Year of Manufacture	

Name of Vessel		**Date of Service**	
Port of Registry		**Report Nr. of Service**	
Customer		**Place of Service**	

TYPE OF SERVICE	**Modification** ☐	**Repair** ☐

This is to confirm that the above mentioned Lifeboat and/or its Release Gear is inspected and tested by the undersigned Service Authorized Person as per manufacturer procedures, with the request of customer/owner representative, in accordance with SOLAS Regulation III 20.3.2 and MSC 1/Circular 1206rev1 and founded satisfactory to be fit for purpose.This statement also confirms that the release mechanism of above lifeboat is in accordance with EC TYPE EXAMINATION CERTIFICATE 49307/A1 MED

SERVICE COMPANY	**AUTHORIZED PERSON**	
	Name	
	Date	
	Signature	

This statement must be followed by the Survey and Test Report.

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SERVICE BULLETIN

Issue Date: 07-AUG-2019

Revision Date: 10-SEP-2019

NO:19/001.rev1 FREEFALL LIFEBOAT RELEASE SYSTEM MODIFICATION *(total 2 pages)*

1. Introduction

This service bulletin gives information about modification of the GEPA freefall release systems.GEPA FIBERGLASS LIFEBOAT company has been informed that a port state control (PSC) raised a deficency concerning a GEPA MED-Solas approved free-fall lifeboats concerning and claiming that the existing release mechanism was found not with independent condition

2. Equipment affected

All GEPA made freefall lifeboats with below types

G-FFF1
G-FFF1-FP
G-FFF2
G-FFF2-FP
G-FFF3
G-FFF3-FP

3. Embodiment date

This service bulletin is in effect by the date of the 07-AUG-2019 after the issue of EC TYPE EXAMINATION CERTIFICATE 49307/A1 MED by Bureau Veritas.

4. Equipment and tools required

No special equipment is required other than usual service tools.

5. Action

A) For the boats that are not modified

The owners and managers of the ships having this type of boats must contact with GEPA in order to have the boat modified immediately.

B) For the boats that are already modified

Approval of any GEPA free-fall lifeboats that are already modified by providers other than manufacturer will be the responsibility of the ships' flag administration.However we invite you to contact with GEPA in case of any clarifications or questions regarding the solution implemented.

6. Modification procedure

Modification kit must be ordered from GEPA and the service company must have maker approval in order to carry out the modification job.

Modification job (installation of modification kit and final tests) takes apprx. 3-4 hours on board.

The service company must do the modification as per the modification procedure GFFRM-01-DOC06-REV01 which was issued by GEPA.

The service company must issue a follow-up / modification statement after completion of the job.This statement must also be signed with ships master and copies to be sent to GEPA, flag administration and classification society.

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General Coordinator

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