

MCI Circular 339/2026

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

Subject: SOLAS Amendments for Lifting Appliances

References:

- [RESOLUTION MSC.532\(107\) - AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974](#)
- [MSC.1/Circ.1662 - GUIDELINES FOR ANCHOR HANDLING WINCHES](#)
- [MSC.1/Circ.1663 - GUIDELINES FOR LIFTING APPLIANCES](#)

Date: 5th March 2026

1. Summary

Kia Orana,

This Circular advises all concerned parties of the mandatory regulatory amendments introduced under IMO Resolution MSC.532(107) which add Regulation II-1/3-13 to the Convention. This new regulation provides the requirements for the design, construction, testing, inspection, examination, maintenance and marking of on-board lifting appliances and anchor handling winches.

2. Regulatory Background

At the 107th session of the Maritime Safety Committee, the IMO adopted the new SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13 to enhance safety for lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches, that enters into force on 1 January 2026.

At the same session, two applicable guidelines were adopted as well: MSC.1/Circ.1663 (for lifting appliances) and MSC.1/Circ.1662 (for anchor handling winches).

3. Applicability

- The new lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches installed on or after 1st January 2026 must comply with the design, construction, certification, testing and marking requirements of Regulation II-1/3-13.

- Existing lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches installed before 1 January 2026 shall be certified according to Regulation II-1/3-13 no later than the date of the first renewal survey of the Safety Construction Certificate on or after 1 January 2026. This Administration strongly recommends to carry out the required certification process at the first available survey of the Safety Construction Certificate on or after 1 January 2026, whether annual, intermediate or renewal.

Paragraphs 2.1 and 2.4 of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13 shall not apply to lifting appliances with a SWL of less than 1,000 kg. Nevertheless, procedures for maintenance, inspection and operational testing, including record keeping for lifting appliances with a SWL of less than 1,000 kg are to be duly established and maintained in the vessel's onboard Safety Management System (SMS), taking into account the relevant IMO Guidelines.

4. Key Requirements

Owners, operators and masters shall ensure the following:

- A comprehensive list of all lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches on board the ship is prepared and maintained, including safe working load (SWL), type, location, and any loose gear associated with each appliance.
- All lifting appliances and winches are permanently and clearly marked with their safe working load and other required information (e.g., maximum radius, boom angle) in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1663.
- Certification, testing and examination:
 - For new appliances: plan appraisal, material verification, inspection during fabrication, load test and thorough examination after installation.
 - For existing appliances: Existing certificates issued under other international instruments — such as ILO Convention No. 152 - will be acceptable for compliance. If no valid certificate exists, a load test and thorough examination must be carried out no later than the first renewal survey after 1 January 2026.
- Maintenance, inspection and operational testing: All lifting appliances and loose gear must be subject to maintenance and inspection regimes consistent with manufacturer's instructions, class rules or equivalent standards, and documented accordingly.

- Loose gear identification and proof test certificates: Loose gear associated with lifting appliances must be clearly identified (serial number, SWL, etc.) and have proof test certificates as required.
- Update the ship's Safety Management System (SMS) and relevant registers to include lifting appliances and winches subject to this regulation, including records of tests, examinations and markings.

5. Survey and Certification

The recognised organisations acting on behalf of this Administration shall verify during applicable surveys on or after 1 January 2026 that:

- A full inventory of lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches is on board;
- All appliances are marked and documented with SWL and other required data;
- Valid certification, load test and thorough examination records are available;
- Loose gear is identified by clear and permanent marking (serial number and SWL) and proof-tested;
- All lifting appliances are provided with an operation and maintenance manual.

Failure to comply may result in withholding or withdrawal of statutory certificate(s) according to this Administration's enforcement regime.

6. Action Required

Shipowners, operators and masters are advised to:

- carry out an inventory audit of all lifting appliances and anchor-handling winches on board as soon as possible;
- obtain or verify documentation (certificates, test records, manufacturer data) verifying SWL and compliance;

- identify appliances lacking valid certification or markings and plan replacement or testing prior to applicable survey;
- liaise with classification society or RO for guidance on accepted standards (e.g., class society rules, ILO 152, etc.);
- ensure that ship's SMS is updated to include the new regulation's requirements;
- familiarise shipboard personnel with the new requirements for marking, examination, load testing and documentation.

Owners and managers can address their queries to the following email address:

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