

MGN 78 (M+F)

Launching Crews for Lifeboats, Rescue Boats, Class C Boats, Inflatable Boats and Other Boats

Guidance to Shipowners, Masters, Officers and Seamen of Merchant Ships, and to Owners, Skippers, Mates and Crews of Fishing Vessels

This Note supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice No. M. 1540

Summary

This Note advises all Shipowners, Masters, Officers and Seamen of Merchant Ships, and Owners, Skippers, Mates and Crews of Fishing Vessels of the correct number of crew for launching lifeboats, rescue boats, Class C boats, inflatable boats and other boats for ships constructed before 1st July 1986.

1. The purpose of this Note is to supersede Merchant Shipping Notice No. M.1540 in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances for Ships Other than Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1999 and the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975.

2. In a case where the boat or the means of launching is not of sufficient strength for the boat to be lowered safely into the water when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment required by the Regulations and Rules the davits or other means of launching shall be conspicuously marked with a RED BAND 150 millimetres wide painted on a white background, in accordance with Regulations 28(19) and Rules 96(17) of the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances for Ships Other than Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1999 and Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975, respectively.

3. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency considers that the proper number of men for a launching or recovery crew when the device is "RED-BANDED" is two. Shipowners, Masters, Officers and Seamen of merchant ships, and Owners, Skippers, Mates and Crews of fishing vessels are, therefore, asked to note that this number should never be exceeded.

4. A notice should be attached to each relevant set of davits or other device stating "Lower or recover with two man crew only".

5. In the case of a launch/recovery device for an inflatable boat, although in certain circumstances the boat is not required to be fitted with an engine, an allowance is made in all cases for the weight of an engine and its fuel of at least 60 kgs in case one is fitted at a later date.

6. **Note:** Under the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances for Ships Other than Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1999 and the Merchant Shipping (Life-Saving Appliances for Passenger Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1999 Lifeboat Davits must be of sufficient strength to launch the boat and full complement. Rescue boat davits must be of sufficient strength to safely enable recovery of the rescue boat, its equipment and full complement of persons.

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