



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 675 of 7th March 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Rescue boat incident
Reference	SOLAS Safety equipment

Rescue boat incident

It was reported that there was a failure of the winch remote control and emergency stop during recovery of the rescue boat.

Incident

The incident occurred on completion of rescue boat testing in good weather. The personnel in the small boat were disembarked at sea level and used a ladder to access the main deck. The AB started recovery of the boat using a remote control.

When close to the final stowage position the remote control failed and the limit switch did not activate as designed. The main propulsion switch was then operated to isolate the power supply to the winch.

Cause

Testing revealed that the control circuit for David recovery was fully operational. However, the recovery was not automatically stopped by the limit switch.

On inspection and disassembly of the contactor, it was found stuck, with contacts in the closed position. The system had undergone annual inspection by an approved independent inspector three weeks previously with the following findings:

- Remote control was checked and found OK
- Davit fall wire inspected and found in good condition
- All electronics checked and found OK.

The most possible cause of failure was frequent intermediate use of the winch for fine adjustment of boat level to make it easier for the crew to get into and out of the fast rescue craft.

The davit winch was repeatedly switched on and off for very short time intervals, which can cause the contacts to burn out.

Customer Service Center

5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, FL, 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
[Joel @conarinagroup.com](mailto:Joel@conarinagroup.com)

Technical Head Office

7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (713) 204 6380
valbozen@hotmail.com

Lesson learned

- Ensure correct retrieval procedure is practiced by all winch operators-limit switches should not be relied on to stop the recovery of craft;
- Conform correct installation of components including limit switches for davit systems;
- Where limit switches have noted faults, inspection should be completed before further use;
- Ensure planned maintenance system covers regular function testing of emergency stop switches;
- Limit switches found to be at fault should be replaced.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS, and IMCA

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

Val Bozenovici
Naval Architect – Conarina Technical Director

Customer Service Center

5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
[Joel @conarinagroup.com](mailto:Joel@conarinagroup.com)

Technical Head Office

7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (713) 204 6380
valbozen@hotmail.com