



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Following a recent incident this notice highlights the requirements for safe operation of the Norsafe AS NLH-70 lifeboat on-load release system.

Documents referred to in this notice:

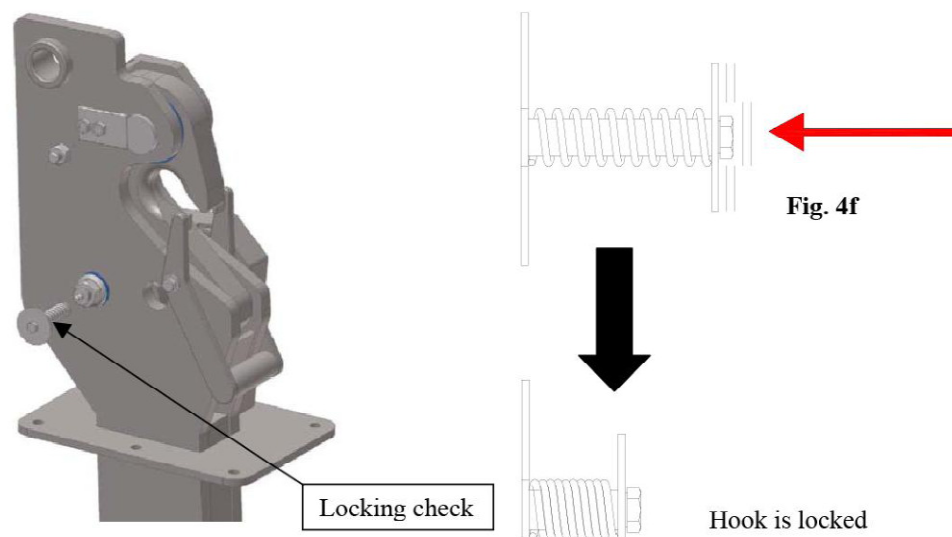
Most regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government web site: www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.survey@gov.im

Norsafe AS NLH-70 Lifeboat on-load release system

Checking that the system is secure

These hooks are provided with special spring loaded pins to enable crew to check at anytime that the hook is properly reset and secure.

The locking checks must be able to be pushed fully home to verify that the hook has been safely reset. This must be checked prior to launching or recovery and whenever the boat is boarded for inspection or maintenance.

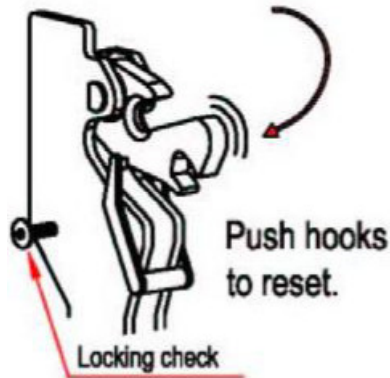


If the locking pin cannot be pushed fully in, the hook may not be properly engaged and may release at anytime even though the control lever can be placed in the locked position.

Resetting

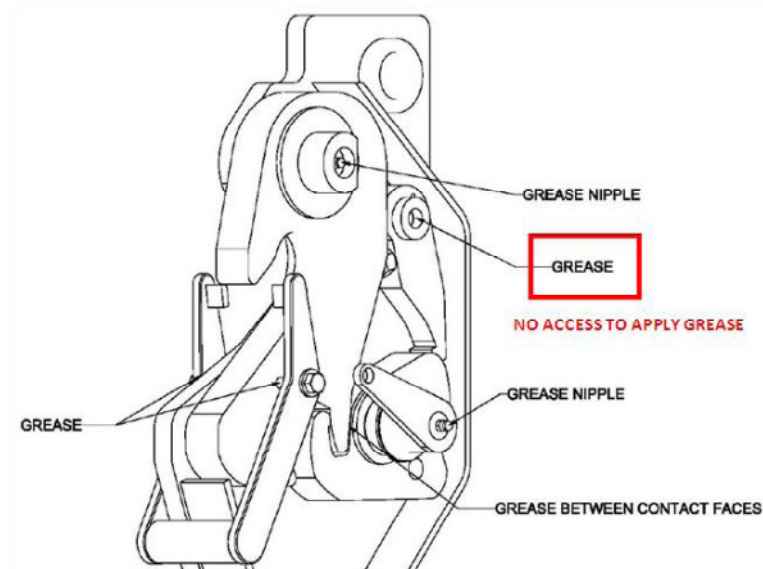
To reset the hook correctly the hook tail has to be pushed continuously. The crew member at the hook must push on the hook tail while the helmsman closes the release lever.

The resetting instructions included a stipulation that the safety check pin must be checked, by pushing the entire pin in between the hook side plates, before the boat is hoisted.



Maintenance

The hooks should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Check that greasing can be carried out in accordance with the Norsafe maintenance manual and Norsafe product awareness notice PAN2011-03.



The diagram above shows a problem found on one hook where the interlock arm could not be greased, this subsequently seized and contributed to the incorrect resetting of the hook.

Legislation

IMO Regulations require lifeboat release mechanisms to be protected against accidental release when under load. Many different designs exist and accidents can occur if they are not correctly operated.

The 89th Session of the IMO Marine Safety Committee, May 2011 adopted a new paragraph 5 of SOLAS regulation III/1 to require lifeboat on-load release mechanisms not complying with new International Life-Saving Appliances (LSA) Code requirements to be replaced no later than the first scheduled dry-docking of the ship after 1 July 2014 but, in any case, not later than 1 July 2019.

Isle of Man Ship Registry
March 2012

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give Legal Advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.