



## Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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### **Shipping Guidance Notice – 085** **Large Commercial Yachts - Guidance for the control and operation of lifting gear**

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To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, and Recognised Organisations

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#### References

- Shipping Information Notice 017 - Requirements for Lifting Equipment Inspection and Certification
- ILO Occupational Safety and Health (Dock Work) Convention 1979 (No.152)
- UK Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment) Regulations 2006
- UK Marine Guidance Note MGN 332 (M+F)
- UK Code of Safe Working Practices
- LY3, The large commercial Yacht code
- REG Yacht code

#### Introduction

The purpose of this guidance notice is to provide reference for control and operation of lifting gear used on Large Commercial Yachts.

The objective is to ensure that only lifting appliances and loose lifting gear in good condition are used on board. That regular inspections and tests are carried out, that proper marking and registration of the lifting appliances and loose lifting gear, is organized in place to meet flag state regulation, classification societies and industry standards. This is a guide only and shall not replace the regulations. The administration would advise that masters become familiar with the relevant regulations and guidance.

#### Background

The majority of injuries to crew involving lifting equipment occur as a result of persons being struck, crushed or caught in moving parts and equipment. The cause is often attributed to incorrect practices or to errors of judgement. Other types of serious accident are caused by the failure of lifting equipment associated mounting points and inappropriate use of lifting equipment. Failure of lift equipment could adversely affect the yachts stability.

Accidents can be avoided through careful design and selection of lifting equipment. In this respect employers should, where available apply a suitable design code, at installation and periodically thereafter, with survey and certification carried out by a competent person. Corrosion, metal fatigue, inappropriate repairs or modifications and poor maintenance can all contribute to reduced safety margins.

#### Application

This guidance applies to lifting appliances such as cranes, derricks, engine room cranes, beams and loose lifting gear such as chain blocks, slings, strops, shackles, eye bolts, plate clamps and associated equipment used in connection with maintenance work and stores handling on board. Personal safety and boarding equipment including gangways, passerelle and over side working equipment.

This guide will provide:

- Information on how lifting appliances and loose lifting gear shall be regularly inspected and tested to ensure that the equipment is always in good and safe condition, that faults are identified and managed promptly and appropriately.
- Information on the certificates and reports which should be kept readily available on board and shall be made available for survey upon request.

#### General Legal Obligations (What Employers & Ship-owners Shall do

The employer shall ensure:

- all lifting equipment on-board is appropriate for its intended purpose and is safe to use;
- all lifting equipment is maintained to a condition where the equipment onboard is appropriate for its intended purpose and is safe to use;
- all personnel using the lifting equipment are trained to an appropriate standard for its intended purpose and safe use;
- records of all survey, inspection and examinations carried out as required by the regulations are maintained.

\* The ship-owner also has a duty of care as above.

#### Responsibilities

The Master should ensure that a responsible person has been designated on-board for the Control and operation of lifting gear.

This person should be responsible for:

- Ensuring vessel compliance with lifting gear regulations.
- Ensuring persons using lifting gear have been trained to do so.
- Maintaining records regarding lifting gear, including but not limited to inspections and examinations, certification, the lifting register and training.

#### Lifting Operations

Whenever an operation concerns lifting or lowering a load you must:

- Plan the operation properly;
- Use personnel who have been adequately trained;
- Ensure appropriate supervision;
- Ensure the operation is carried out in a safe and controlled manner;
- Lifting equipment must be of adequate strength and stability;
- Lifting equipment should be positioned or installed in such a way as to reduce the risk, as far as reasonably practicable, of the equipment or load striking a person, or of the load drifting, falling freely or being unintentionally released;
- Suitable PPE should be worn by all persons involved in the operation;
- Sufficient risk assessments shall be carried out with regular review.

## Training

- Only crew who have been appropriately trained and proven competent should undertake the use, operation, maintenance or inspection of lifting appliances.
- Training may be in house on the job training by an experienced and proven competent crewmember or by the equipment manufacturer, external course provider or other external body.
- It will be for the employer to decide the most appropriate form of training which is to be provided, having regard to the operation of the lifting appliance and the lifting operation to be undertaken.
- Instruction should be given to the yachts personnel to enable them to appreciate factors affecting the safe operation of lifting appliances.
- Training and safety information for those on board should include an understanding of the relevant sections of the UK Code of Safe Working Practices.
- Records should be kept onboard of the crews' familiarisation and training in the use of lifting gear. This may be included in an initial familiarisation checklist as part of the vessels safety management system.

## Operational Checks

Lifting gear must be visually checked before use to ensure it is fit for purpose. Lifting gear must once again be visually checked after use to ensure it has not been compromised by the lifting operation. This can be part of the vessels safety management system and risk assessments carried out on-board, records should be maintained.

Lifting equipment must be examined in a number of situations, including:

- Before first use;
- Where it depends on installation, or re-installation / assembly at another site;
- Where it is exposed to conditions causing deterioration, liable to result in danger.

Damaged equipment shall not be used and shall immediately be scrapped, quarantined or repaired.

## Thorough Examination, Inspection, & Testing

*\*Please refer to Shipping Information Notice 017 - Requirements for Lifting Equipment Inspection and Certification*

Steve Gomez  
Chief Surveyor (Ag)

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