



MPA  
SINGAPORE

MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE  
SHIPPING CIRCULAR  
NO. 6 OF 2026

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19 June 2026

**Attention to:** Shipowners, ship managers, operators and masters of Singapore-registered ships, the shipping community and recognised organisations<sup>1</sup>.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SOLAS CHAPTER II-1 REGULATION 3-13 FOR LIFTING APPLIANCES AND ANCHOR HANDLING WINCHES ON BOARD SINGAPORE-REGISTERED SHIPS**

This circular sets out the requirements by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), as flag Administration of Singapore-registered ships, for the implementation of SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-13 for lifting appliances and anchor handling winches on board all Singapore-registered ships, along with associated guidelines.

**Application**

2 SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-13, which entered into force on 1 January 2026 through the adoption of IMO Resolution MSC.532(107), shall apply to lifting appliances and anchor handling winches, and loose gear utilised with the lifting appliances and anchor handling winches. This regulation shall be interpreted together with associated guidelines in MSC.1/Circ. 1662 – *Guidelines for Anchor Handling Winches*, and MSC.1/Circ. 1663 – *Guidelines for Lifting Appliances*, where necessary.

3 Notwithstanding, this regulation is not applicable to:

- a. Lifting appliances on ships certified under the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Code);
- b. Lifting appliances used on offshore construction ships, such as pipe/cable laying/repair or offshore installation vessels, including ships for

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<sup>1</sup> American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Bureau Veritas (BV), China Classification Society (CCS), Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Korean Register (KR), Lloyd's Register (LR), Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK), Registro Italiano Navale (RINA)

- decommissioning work, which comply with standards acceptable to the Administration;
- c. Integrated mechanical equipment for opening and closing hold hatch covers; and
  - d. Launching appliances for life-saving equipment which are certified to be compliant with the International Life-saving Appliance (LSA) Code.

4 With reference to SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-13, Paragraph 1.3, which states “*The Administration shall determine to what extent the provisions of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.4 do not apply to lifting appliances which have a safe working load below 1,000 kg.*”, the following positions shall be observed:

- a. SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-13 Paragraph 2.1 **does not apply** to new and existing ship lifting appliances with a Safe Working Load (SWL) of below 1,000 kg, installed on or after 1 January 2026.
- b. SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-13 Paragraph 2.4 **does not apply** to lifting appliances with a SWL of below 1,000 kg, installed on or after 1 January 2026.
- c. All lifting appliances with a SWL of below 1,000 kg used on board Singapore-registered ships shall be addressed through the following conditions in relation to the International Safety Management (ISM) Code (*Element 10 – Maintenance of the Ship and Equipment*) and Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) (*Title 4, Regulation 4.3 – Health and Safety Protection and Accident Prevention*):
  - i. The ISM Company is required to review their Safety Management System (SMS) and develop an appropriate Planned Maintenance System (PMS) accordingly to maintain all lifting appliances, anchor handling winches and all associated loose gears (including those below 1,000 kg) in a timely manner, taking into account the Guidelines MSC.1/Circ. 1663; and
  - ii. Recognised organisations issuing the Safety Management Certificate (SMC) certification on-board Singapore-registered ships shall verify compliance at the next scheduled SMC audit<sup>2</sup> on/after 1 January 2026.

### **Change of Flag requirements**

5 For foreign-registered ships transferring its registry to the Singapore Registry of Ships after 1 January 2026, whereby the former flag(s) do not apply SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13 paragraphs 2.1 and 2.4 to lifting appliances with SWL of below 1,000 kg, the

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<sup>2</sup> The audit refers to intermediate or renewal verification under Part B, Chapter 13 (Certification and Periodical Verification) of the ISM Code.

recognised organisation issuing the SMC shall verify the conditions stipulated in the aforementioned paragraph 4(c) at the next scheduled SMC audit.

### Interpretation for definition of terms

6 The following sets out interpretations for the definition of terms used in the aforementioned regulation and associated guidelines, in relation to Singapore-registered ships:

- a. “*Competent Person*” means a person possessing the knowledge and experience required for the performance of duties specified in the guidelines. Either the recognised organisation that issues the ship’s Safety Construction Certificate, or the Maker/Manufacturer that are acceptable to the recognised organisation of the lifting appliances/loose gears are considered acceptable by the Administration.
- b. “*Responsible Person*” shall be defined in the ISM Company’s SMS. The recognised organisation issuing the SMC shall verify compliance at the next scheduled on-board SMC audit on or after 1 January 2026.
- c. “*Lifting Appliance*” refers to any load-handling ship’s equipment with a SWL of above 1,000 kg *installed* onboard:
  - i. Used for cargo loading, transfer or discharge;
  - ii. Used for raising and lowering hold hatch covers or moveable bulkheads;
  - iii. Used as engine-room cranes;
  - iv. Used as stores cranes;
  - v. Used as hose handling cranes;
  - vi. Used for launch and recovery of tender boats and similar applications; and
  - vii. Used as personnel handling cranes.

“*Installed*”<sup>3</sup> means lifting appliances are permanently connected<sup>4</sup> (form-closed/bolted, bonded/welded) to the ship.

7 For ship equipment that does not fall under the above definition of lifting appliances, as defined in paragraph 6(c), the ISM company shall ensure that these are appropriate and suitable for use onboard the ship, including maintenance and labelling of the safe working load as part of the company’s SMS and PMS, and the conduct of risk assessment for each lifting task.

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<sup>3</sup> As per IACS Recommendation No. 198 for Onboard Lifting Appliances

<sup>4</sup> Permanently connected includes the following types of connection:

- a) Form-fit, form-locked or form-closed connections, such as bolted connections; and
- b) Bonded connections, such as welded connections.

*Form-fit, form-locked or form-closed connections* means a type of connection in which forces and/or moments are transmitted through the geometric shape of the mating parts.

## **Queries**

8 For queries, kindly contact MPA's Flag State Control or Ship Regulatory Design and Standards Department via email at [shipping@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:shipping@mpa.gov.sg) or Tel: (+65) 1800 272 7777 (Select Option 1 followed by Option 3).

**CHEAH AUN AUN  
DIRECTOR OF MARINE  
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