



Marine Notice Nr. 02/2026, 05/05/2026

Subject: “Implementation of SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 3-13 – Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches”

To: All G-B I.S.R. Shipowners, Operators, Managers, Masters of Ships Flying the Flag of Guinea-Bissau, Flag State Surveyors and Recognized Organizations

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this Circular is to provide instructions for the uniform implementation of the requirements of SOLAS Chapter II-1, Regulation 3-13 concerning lifting appliances, anchor handling winches and associated loose gear.
- 1.2 This Circular establishes the policy of the Administration regarding:
- .1 delegation of statutory functions to Recognized Organizations (ROs);
 - .2 interpretation of the expression “to the satisfaction of the Administration”; and
 - .3 certification, survey, testing, and operational requirements applicable to lifting appliances.
- 1.3 This Circular shall be read in conjunction with the applicable IMO instruments listed under section 2 below.

2. References – IMO Applicable Legislation

- 2.1 SOLAS 1974, as amended, in particular:
- .1 Chapter II-1, Regulation 3-13 (Resolution MSC.532(107));
- 2.2 IMO Circulars and Guidelines:
- .1 MSC.1/Circ.1663 – Guidelines for lifting appliances;
 - .2 MSC.1/Circ.1662 – Guidelines for anchor handling winches;
 - .3 MSC.1/Circ.1696 – Unified Interpretation of SOLAS II-1/3-13.2.4;
- 2.3 Other relevant instruments:
- .1 SOLAS Regulation XI-1/1 (Authorization of Recognized Organizations);
 - .2 Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC);

3. Definitions

- 3.1 For the purpose of this Circular, definitions contained in SOLAS Regulation II-1/2 and MSC.1/Circ.1663 shall apply.
- 3.2 Without limitation:
- .1 “Lifting appliance” means any load-handling ship’s equipment as defined in SOLAS;
 - .2 “Loose gear” means detachable load-handling equipment associated with lifting appliances;
 - .3 “Recognized Organization (RO)” means a classification society duly authorized by the Administration;
 - .4 “Competent person” means a person acceptable to the Administration, normally acting under the authorization of an RO;

4. Scope and Applicability

- 4.1 This Marine Notice applies to all lifting appliances, anchor handling winches and associated loose gear installed on board ships flying the flag of Guinea-Bissau.
- 4.2 The requirements apply as follows:
- .1 Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026: full compliance upon installation;

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- .2 Lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026: compliance no later than the first renewal survey on or after 1 January 2026;
- 4.3 This Circular does not apply to equipment excluded under SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.1.2, including:
- .1 lifting appliances covered by the LSA Code (International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code);
 - .2 lifting appliances on MODUs (Lifting appliances on vessels certified as Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs));
 - .3 specialized offshore construction equipment compliant with alternative standards;

5. Delegation to G-B I.S.R. Recognized Organizations

5.1 General Principle for the Delegation

5.1.1 The Administration hereby **fully delegates** to its authorized Recognized Organizations (ROs) all statutory functions related to the implementation of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.

5.1.2 Such delegation includes, but is not limited to:

- .1 plan approval;
- .2 design verification;
- .3 survey, inspection, and testing;
- .4 certification and endorsement;
- .5 approval of competent persons;
- .6 verification of compliance with IMO Guidelines.

5.2 Legal Effect of Delegation

5.2.1 All activities carried out by an authorized RO within the scope of this Circular shall be deemed to be carried out **on behalf of the Administration**.

5.2.2 Certificates, reports, and statements issued by ROs shall be accepted by the Administration as evidence of compliance.

5.3 RO Rules and Standards Recognized

5.3.1 The Administration recognizes the rules, procedures, and certification schemes of authorized ROs as meeting the requirements of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.

5.3.2 Compliance with RO rules shall be deemed equivalent to compliance with:

- .1 SOLAS requirements; and
- .2 IMO Guidelines referenced in section 2.

6. Interpretation of the term “to the Satisfaction of the Administration.”

6.1 For the purpose of this Circular, the expression: “to the satisfaction of the Administration” shall be interpreted as:

6.1.1 Compliance verified, surveyed, tested, examined, and certified by a Recognized Organization duly authorized by the Administration; and

6.1.2 Acceptance by the Administration of:

- .1 RO rules and procedures;
- .2 RO-approved competent persons;
- .3 RO certification and documentation schemes.

6.2 The Administration does not require direct involvement in technical verification where such activities are carried out by an authorized RO.

6.3 The Administration retains overall responsibility in accordance with SOLAS relevant parts, but exercises such responsibility through its recognized delegation framework.



7. Requirements for Lifting Appliances

7.1 New Lifting Appliances

- 7.1.1 Lifting appliances installed on or after 1 January 2026 shall:
- .1 be designed, constructed, and installed in accordance with the rules of an authorized RO;
 - .2 undergo load testing and thorough examination prior to first use;
 - .3 be permanently marked with Safe Working Load (SWL) and operational limitations;
- 7.1.2 Certification shall be issued by or under the authority of an authorized RO.

7.2 Existing Lifting Appliances

- 7.2.1 Lifting appliances installed before 1 January 2026 shall:
- .1 be load tested and thoroughly examined;
 - .2 be marked with SWL;
 - .3 have documentary evidence of compliance;
- 7.2.2 Compliance shall be achieved no later than the first renewal survey after 1 January 2026.

7.3 Non-Certified Existing Equipment

- 7.3.1 Where no valid certification exists, compliance may be demonstrated by a “Factual Statement” in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1696.
- 7.3.2 Such a statement shall be issued by a competent person approved by a recognized RO.

8. Testing and Examination Regime Applicable Policy

- 8.1 Lifting appliances shall be subject to:
- .1 load testing upon installation and after major modifications;
 - .2 periodic load testing at intervals not exceeding five years;
 - .3 annual thorough examination;
- 8.2 All testing and examinations shall be:
- .1 carried out by competent persons;
 - .2 accepted by an authorized RO;

9. Certification and Documentation Policy

- 9.1 The following documentation shall be maintained onboard:
- .1 Certificate of test and thorough examination;
 - .2 Register of lifting appliances and cargo handling gear;
 - .3 maintenance and inspection records;
- 9.2 Documentation issued by ROs or competent persons accepted by ROs shall be considered valid.

10. Role of “Competent Persons.”

- 10.1 Competent persons shall:
- .1 perform load tests and examinations;
 - .2 issue certificates or statements;
- 10.2 Competent persons shall be:
- .1 approved or accepted by an authorized RO, as per its own procedures and requirements;
 - .2 deemed acceptable to the Administration through such approval;

11. Maintenance and Operation Policy

- 11.1 All lifting appliances and loose gear shall be:
- .1 maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions or RO requirements;
 - .2 subject to inspection and operational testing;
 - .3 incorporated into the ship’s planned maintenance system;



- 11.2 Operational procedures shall include:
- .1 risk assessment;
 - .2 trained personnel;
 - .3 safe operational limits.

12. Exceptions and Discretions Policy

- 12.1 In accordance with SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.1.3, the Administration may determine a limited application for lifting appliances with SWL (Safe Working Load) below 1,000 kg.
- 12.2 The Administration hereby determines that:
- .1 such appliances may be subject to simplified inspection regimes;
 - .2 verification and certification shall remain under the responsibility of the RO;
- 12.3 Equipment excluded under SOLAS shall not fall within the scope of this Circular unless dual-use conditions apply.

13. Transitional Arrangements

- 13.1 Existing ships shall comply at the first renewal survey after the issuance of this Marine Notice.
- 13.2 Surveys may be harmonized with HSSC survey windows.
- 13.3 ROs shall ensure alignment with class and statutory survey regimes.

14. Entry into Force

- 14.1 This Circular enters into force upon publication.
- 14.2 All authorized ROs shall implement the provisions herein without delay.

15. Final Provisions

- 15.1 This Circular reflects the policy of G-B I.S.R., as the competent Flag Administration for the implementation of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13.
- 15.2 In case of doubt, interpretation shall be made in accordance with IMO instruments and the guidance of the Administration.

16. Communication & Technical Assistance

- 16.1 Shipowners, operators, managers, Masters, Recognized Organizations and other stakeholders are invited to direct any requests for clarification, technical guidance, or interpretation related to the implementation of this Circular to the Technical Division of the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau (G-B ISR).
- 16.2 All communications should include, where applicable:
- .1 the name of the vessel and IMO number;
 - .2 details of the lifting appliance(s) concerned;
 - .3 relevant certification, survey, or inspection records; and
 - .4 a clear description of the issue or request for interpretation.
- 16.3 Requests shall be submitted in writing to the following contact point:

G-B I.S.R. / Deputy General Ships Registrar's Office/ Technical Division

International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau (G-B ISR)
Adm. Notara Str. 110–112
18535 Piraeus, Greece
Email: tech@gbi-lb.org
Tel: +30 210 4530972



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- 16.4 The Administration may, where deemed appropriate:
- .1 issue clarifications or interpretations consistent with IMO instruments;
 - .2 consult with the Recognized Organization concerned;
 - .3 request additional supporting documentation or technical evidence.
- 16.5 Any guidance or interpretation issued by the Administration shall be without prejudice to the statutory responsibilities delegated to Recognized Organizations under section 5 of this Circular.

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar



Attached (in electronic form)

1. IMO Resolution MSC.532(107) (p.9)
2. IMO MSC.1/Circ.1663 – Guidelines for lifting appliances (p.16)

Date of Issue	Revision No.	Amendments
05/05/2026	00	-