

## SAFETY INFORMATION NOTICE

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### Liferafts

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### Issue

Securing and stowage of liferafts

### Background

The 2012 Port Fairy Race incident highlighted the need for a system to securely stow liferafts on the deck of racing or cruising boats.

### Notice

Evidence has shown that liferafts need to be correctly stowed and secured in order to reduce the risk of damage or loss.

### In Summary

After research and investigation, the following information should guide boats and their crews.

#### 1. Liferaft stowage

- Liferafts should be stowed in a position which ensures their availability when they are needed, and where they may be easily launched or can float free.
- Liferafts should not be stowed in a position where they may lie in trapped water.
- Liferafts packed in rigid containers should be stowed the right way up and secured to the vessel in chocks or liferaft cradles.
- Liferaft chocks and cradles should be the correct dimensions for the particular type and size of container, and the chocks or cradles should be securely fastened to a solid part of the vessel's structure.
- It is of great importance that liferafts can easily be deployed or released from the liferaft chocks or cradles. Any lashing holding the raft in the dedicated chock or cradle arrangement must be easy to remove in an emergency. A device such as a slip link or other release device, which can be operated by a single action, should be provided.

#### 2. Securing the Painter line

- The end of the painter line of every liferaft should be secured to a suitable strong point on the vessel, so that in the event of the liferaft being launched, the liferaft is attached to the vessel and does not float away.
- All crew should be aware that if the end of the painter line is to be removed from the strong point prior to launching the liferaft, then it should be made secure to a suitable alternative strong point before launch.

#### 3. Stowage Height

- Liferafts should be stowed as close to the water line as possible, and should not exceed the maximum stowage height as described in the liferaft instructions.

#### 4. Float Free Arrangements

- Float free is the method of launching a liferaft whereby it is automatically released from a sinking vessel, inflates and is ready to use. To enable this arrangement, liferafts should be positioned so that in the event of a vessel sinking, the raft can float free of the vessel without obstruction.
- The float free arrangement is made up of two elements; firstly, the hydrostatic release unit which should be installed, serviced and replaced as per manufacturer's instructions. Secondly, the weak link to which the painter is connected enabling trigger and inflation of the liferaft before breaking away to prevent the raft from being pulled below the surface.