

Marine Notice No. 32 of 2007

The correct securing of liferafts

TO ALL OWNERS, OPERATORS, MANAGERS, SKIPPER'S & SAFETY OFFICER'S OF FISHING AND SMALL VESSELS, TRAINING INSTITUTIONS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Marine Notice No. 24 of 2007 is cancelled

Summary

This notice advises the fishing industry and the small vessel industry of the correct method to secure liferafts

- 1 It has come to the attention of the Authority that between 5 and 10% of fishing vessels have their liferafts lashed to either the cradle or to the vessel.
- 2 This is presumably done to stop the liferaft being lost overboard in exceptionally heavy weather conditions and may be necessary for very limited periods of time.
- 3 Liferafts must never be lashed to the cradle



- 4 The survivors of two accidents where the vessel sank owe their lives to the liferaft releasing from the vessel as it sank, it is doubtful that those eleven persons would be with us today if the hydrostatic unit had not been allowed to release the liferaft after it activated.
- 5 The photograph above was taken as the vessel arrived in port; the weather was far from heavy.

6 The diagrams below indicate the correct and incorrect way to secure a liferaft, skippers and safety officers should check the fitting of the hydro-static release regularly.

YOUR LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT.

4 December 2014

SM6/5/2/1

Issued by and obtainable from:
The South African Maritime Safety Authority
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PO Box 13186
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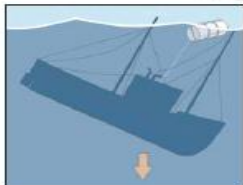
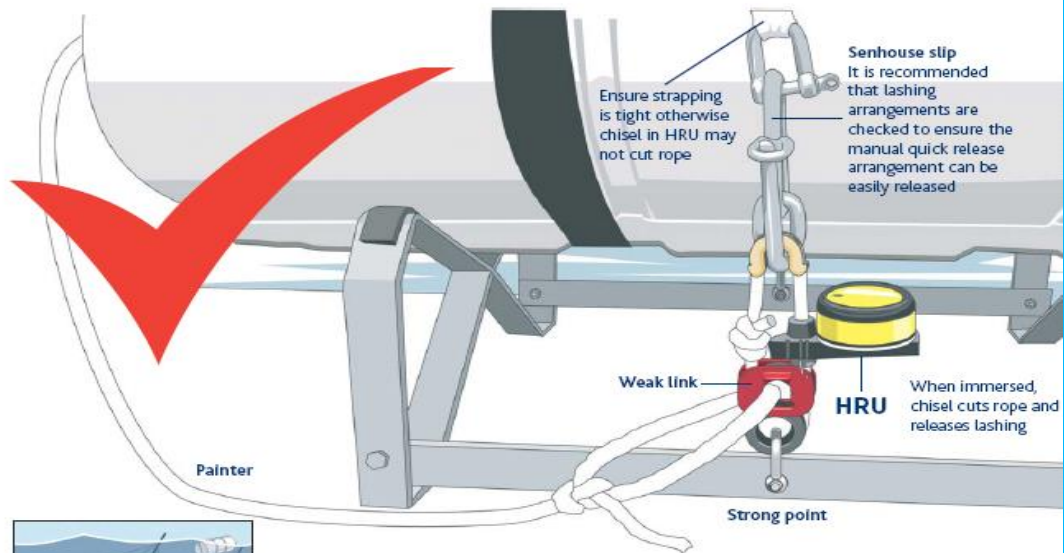
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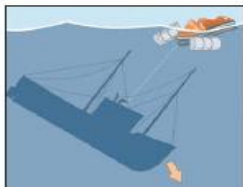
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HYDROSTATIC RELEASE UNIT (HRU) CORRECT INSTALLATION



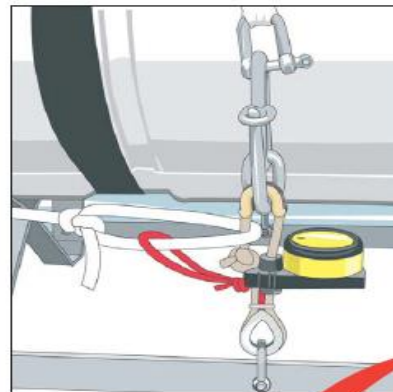
1. If vessel sinks, Hydrostatic Release Unit activates and liferaft attempts to float to surface



2. Tension on painter will cause liferaft to inflate



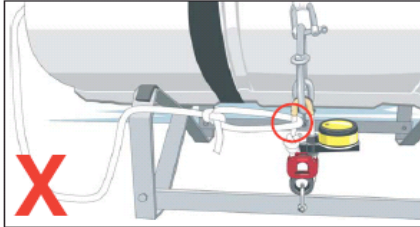
3. Tension on weak link will cause it to break ensuring liferaft does not go down with the boat



Correct installation of older version HRU

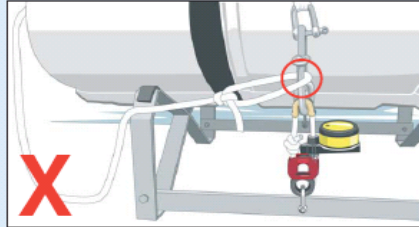
INCORRECT INSTALLATION

Painter secured to HRU
(not through weak link)



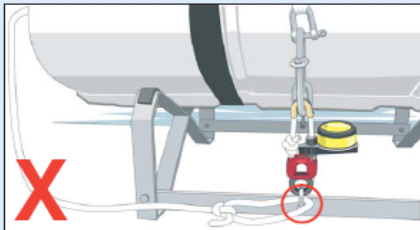
1. HRU will activate
2. Liferaft will be released but will **NOT** automatically inflate and will eventually drift away

Painter secured to senhouse slip



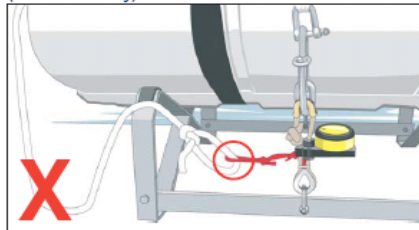
1. HRU will activate
2. Liferaft will float free and eventually inflate
3. Because the painter is secured to the slip, the liferaft will **NOT** be released to the surface

Painter secured directly to strong point



1. HRU will activate
2. Liferaft will float free and eventually inflate
3. Because the painter is secured directly to the strong point, the liferaft will **NOT** be released to the surface **EVEN IF** it is attached to the weak link as well

Painter secured only to weak link
(older version only)



1. Will work correctly for automatic release, but:
2. If liferaft is thrown overboard in an emergency (or comes adrift at sea) it may be lost