

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ANCHOR HANDLING WINCHES DUE TO AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS II-1 (RETROACTIVE REQUIREMENTS)

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1. PURPOSE

This circular is issued to inform all Masters, Chief Engineers, Ship Managers, and Technical Superintendents regarding the latest amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-13 concerning anchor handling winches (AHW), including mandatory retroactive application and associated compliance requirements.

2. APPLICABILITY

All vessels of 500 GT and above engaged in international voyages Equipped with anchor handling winches used for:
Deploying anchors
Recovering anchors
Repositioning mooring lines in subsea operations

This includes:

Anchor Handling Vessels (AHV)
Vessels performing anchor handling operations without AHV notation

3. CLASS NOTATION & INSTALLATION CHARACTER

AHV vessels (with existing notation):
→ Installation character “AHW” to be assigned
AHV vessels (without notation):
→ Assign “AHV” notation + “AHW” installation character
Other vessels using anchor handling winches:
→ Assign “AHW” installation character

4. RETROACTIVE APPLICATION – COMPLIANCE DEADLINES

Winches installed on or after 01 January 2026:
→ Full compliance required at installation

Winches installed before 01 January 2026:

(a) Existing vessels:

→ Compliance before the first Safety Construction (SC) survey (Annual / Intermediate / Renewal) on or after 01 January 2026

(b) Newbuilding vessels (delivered on/after 01 January 2026):

→ Compliance before initial SC certification survey

Note: “Installed” refers to contractual or actual delivery date.

5. REQUIRED ACTIONS

5.1 For Assignment of “AHV” Notation

Submission (Hull Department – 1 month prior):
Arrangement plans of anchor handling equipment

Supporting structure details
Stability information

Reference Documents:

Equipment details
Structural calculations

Survey:

General examination based on drawing review

5.2 For Assignment of “AHW” Installation Character

Submission (Machinery Department – 1 month prior):
General arrangement of winch
Construction drawings
Fittings and loose gear details
Driving gear drawings
Power system diagrams
Control, safety, and protective system drawings

Reference Documents:

Technical specifications
Operation & maintenance manuals

If documents unavailable:

Submit previous survey records and certificates
Deadline: Minimum 2 weeks prior to survey

Survey Requirements:

Thorough examination
Operational testing
Functional testing

6. IMPORTANT NOTES

Vessels failing to comply may face PSC deficiencies or detention
Early coordination with your Classification Society is strongly advised
Ensure all relevant documentation is updated and available onboard

7. ACTION REQUIRED ONBOARD

Verify if anchor handling winches are installed onboard
Confirm applicable class notation / installation character
Coordinate with Company and Class for compliance
Prepare and maintain required documentation
Ensure readiness for inspection during upcoming surveys