

OCEAN SOLAS LIFERAFT

Owner's Manual

REV 1

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1.0	INTRODUCTION	P3
2.0	INSTALLATION	P4
3.0	OPERATION	P5
4.0	BOARDING	P7
5.0	FLOAT FREE	P8
6.0	SURVIVAL & RESCUE	P9
7.0	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR	P11

1.1 This manual has been compiled as a guide to the general transport, storage, stowage, maintenance, servicing and usage of your liferaft. Keep this manual in a safe place on board, it is recommended that it is accessible to all on board and content to be read and thoroughly understood before any action is taken with the liferaft.

1.2 Whilst the information provided is extensive, it may not be complete as regulations do vary from country to country. Therefore it is advisable to obtain further guidance from your local authority regarding the additional equipment to be carried or regulations to be met.

2.1 Common Installation

The raft is packed into a GRP container after it being folded. Generally, the container is arranged on the cradle located at both sides of the ship. The container should be put in rightness on the cradle and fix it by bands. One end of the lashing should be connected with a slip-hook assembly which is in turn connected with the Hydrostatic Release Unit (HRU) secured on the cradle. In addition, the painter stretched out the container must be firmly fastened on the connection ring of HRU, with which the weak link cord is connected also. Another end of the cord is fastened on the bottom plate of HRU (Fig. 1). Usually, the painter is prohibited to pull out from the container.

2.2 Installation of the liferaft at the bow

For the large ship, an additional liferaft may be arranged at the bow. The raft should be firmly lashed on the cradle and generally a quick release hook device may be used instead of HRU. Its painter should be secured at the cradle.

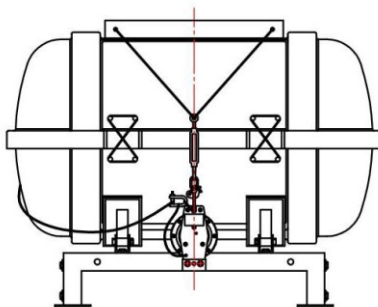


Fig 1 - Installation On Board

3.1 The container should be thrown into the water and inflate the raft inside when using. The operation procedures are as follows:

1. Pulling out the pin first and pushing out the slip-ring upward. The slip-hook and the lashing will be loosed at once (Fig. 2).
2. After the lashing loosed, the container will roll down along the slider under the action of its own weight if an inclined cradle used (Fig. 3); otherwise, the container has to be removed from the cradle and thrown into the water (Fig. 4).
3. During the container falling, the painter will be pulled out from the container continuously. When it is on the water, people on board shall give the painter a sharp pull to actuate the cylinder valve (Fig. 5), the mixture air stored in the cylinder will inflate the tubes of the raft immediately and the raft will be inflated to its form and float on water (Fig. 6).
4. If the raft is in the upright position after inflated, draw it with its painter to let the raft float along side the ship.
5. If the raft is in the inverted position after inflated, right it first by a skilled crew and then operate as in 4.0 During righting, the operator should stand at the cylinder side, grasp the righting belt and give a sharp pull backward. Righting along the wind direction will make it easier (Fig. 7).

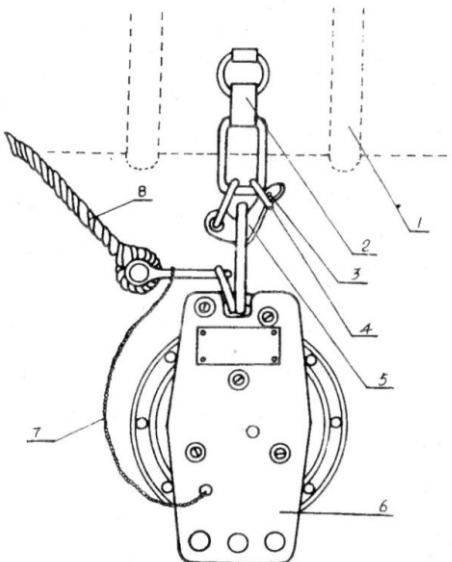


Fig 2 - Loose Slip Hook

1. Container
2. Lashing
3. Pin
4. Slip-Ring
5. Slip-Hook
6. Hydrostatic Release Unit
7. Weak Link Cord
8. Painter

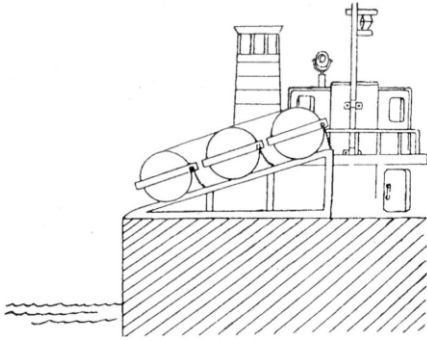


Fig 3 - Launching On Slider

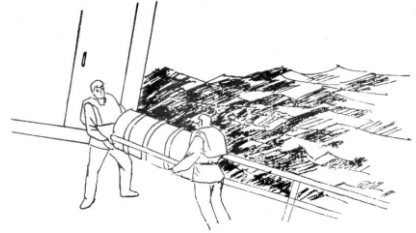


Fig 4 - Throwing Over Board

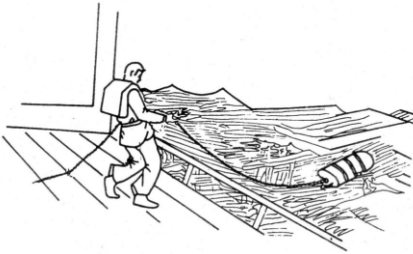


Fig 5 - Pull Out Painter To Inflate



Fig 6 - Inflated In Water

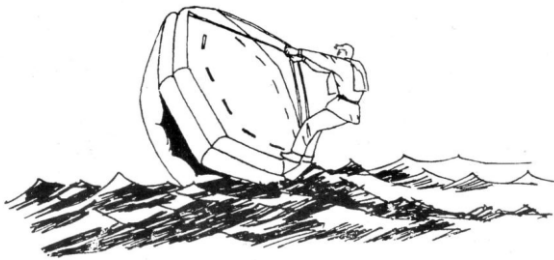


Fig 7 - Righting

4.1 After the raft is moved alongside the ship, the survivors can embark through a rope ladder or other ways; or jump down into it if not too high; peoples in water should swim to the raft for boarding through the boarding ramp or ladder.

4.2 The painter should be unfastened or cut off quickly after all survivors boarding to disconnect the raft with the sinking ship and paddle it away (Fig.14).

4.3 After boarding and seating orderly, peoples in the raft should search for survivors in water and help them to board. Rescue line with quoit can be thrown over to the survivor.

4.4 After catching it up, the survivor could be pulled alongside the raft for boarding with other's help. At night, use torch to search the sea surface, or use whistle to attract the persons in water.

4.5 When the raft is away from the sinking ship at a certain safety distance, streaming the sea anchor for withstanding wind and wave and to avoid floating too far away for being rescued in time.



Fig 14 - Cut The Painter

5.1 On occasion, the ship may sink so quickly so as to the crews do not have time to launch the rafts. In such a case, the container will sink down with the ship and be released automatically by HRU at a 2 - 4 m depth.

5.2 The HRU will release the container automatically due to the action of hydraulic pressure, and the container will float freely up to water surface.

5.3 As the sinking of the ship, the painter will be pulled out continuously by the float force of the container itself until the cylinder valve is actuated, and the liferaft will be inflated to its form.

5.4 Following the further sinking of the ship, the weak-link cord will be broken off and the liferaft will be disconnected with the sinking ship (Fig. 15).

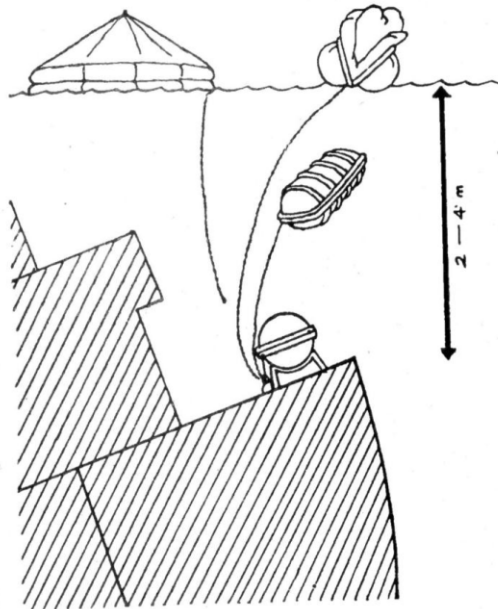


Fig 15 - Free Floating

6.1 Inflate the floor with the bellows through the topping-up valve on the floor for soft seating and resisting against cold water (Fig. 16).

6.2 In cold season or at night, close the door curtain for resisting against seawater and cold wind.

6.3 When the raft is flooded, use bailer and sponge to drain water away and dry the floor.

6.4 Catch up reasonable occasions to launch various signals correctly so as to being discovered and rescued as early as possible. These include:

- After boarding, erect the radar reflector at once.
-
- Turn on the position-indicating light (its power can be used for not less than 12h) at night and keep a lookout at the viewing port.
-
- Launch rocket parachute signals and hand flares or send Morse signals with torch for help immediately when passing ships or aircrafts discovered (Fig. 17).
-
- At daytime, buoyant smoke signals can be managed or daylight signaling mirror can be operated with the help of sunlight for sending signals to passing ships and aircrafts. Turn off the position-indicating light for saving the power at daytime.
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- If portable radio set, emergency position-indicating radio beacon, or radar responder are carried in, signals for help could be sent out according to their instructions.

6.5 There are emergency bags packed with various spares and equipments in the raft. Read "The Survivor's Manual" carefully. Learn to manage the equipment correctly and know how to deal with emergency situations.

6.6 Rations, fresh water and first aid kit are provided with limited amount in the raft and to be used with limitation.

6.7 Rainwater catchments devices are provided on the canopy. In rainy day, rainwater should be collected for supplement.

6.8 If the raft is deflated due to leakage, the bellows could be used for topping-up.

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Fig 16 - Inflate Floor With Bellows

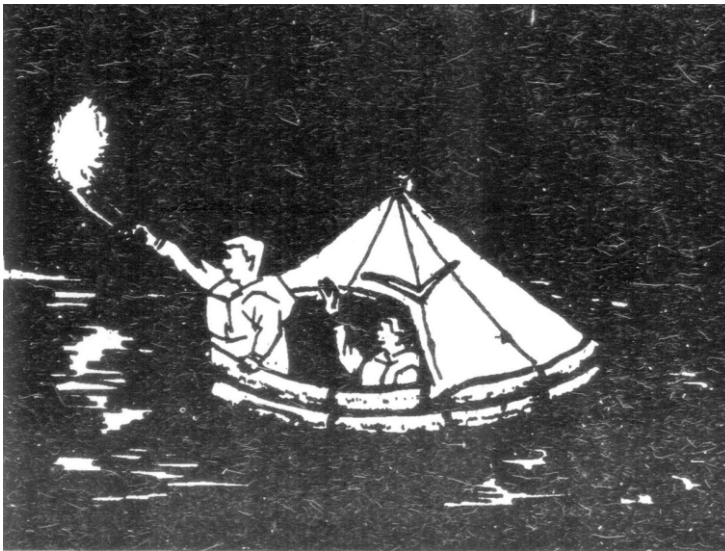


Fig 17 - Send Signals for Help to Ship and Aircrafts at Night

7.1 During floating at sea, more attentions should be paid to the maintenance of the raft. The raft must always be kept in good condition. Rubber fabrics may be destroyed by fire and broken by burrs or sharp edges easily, and much care should be taken.



WARNING: TAKE PARTICULAR CARE WHEN USING PYROTECHNICS OR SHARP OBJECTS IN OR AROUND THE INFLATED RAFT.



7.2 When the raft is damaged, repair it at once. A repair kit with necessary materials and tools is provided in the raft for emergency use. Depending on size of the hole, conical rubber plug or clamp provided could be used (Fig. 18).

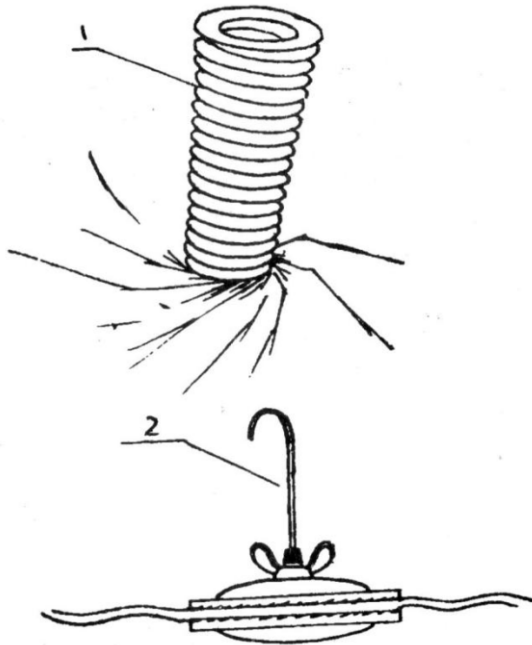


Fig 18 - Repairing

1. Conical Plug
2. Clamp

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