

Rule Clarification – Windlass for Anchor of Less than 30kgs

Interim Technical Note (ITN-04-19)

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General Purpose

Interim Technical Notes (ITNs) provide supporting information on specific technical issues or areas related to maritime rules or marine protection rules. The material in this ITN should not be treated as a substitute for the rules, which are the law. This ITN may be replaced with or clarified by operational guidance or an advisory circular at a later date.

Purpose and Application

This ITN provides clarification on the application of Maritime rule requirements in 40A/C/D on windlass for anchor of less than 30kgs, on post-27 May 2004 ships. Rule Part 40A is used as an example in the majority of this document. The same principle/clarification applies to 40C and 40D as well.

Relevant Rules

Maritime Rules Part 40A

40A.61 Windlass

- (1) The owner and the master of any post-27 May 2004 ship must ensure that—
 - (a) a powered windlass or other powered mechanical lifting device is provided, except for a post-27 May 2004 ship using an anchor of less than 50 kgs, in which case the windlass or mechanical lifting device may be hand operated; and
 - (b) the windlass is of sufficient power and suitable for the size of chain attached to the anchor; and
 - (c) the inboard end of the rope or chain is permanently made fast to the ship; and
 - (d) windlasses or other mechanical lifting devices are securely fitted to the deck of the ship.
- (2) Rule 40A.61(1)(a) does not apply to a post-27 May 2004 ship using an anchor of less than 30 kgs and using rope instead of anchor chain, in accordance with Tables 3A or 3B of Appendix 7 and the notes relating to Tables 3A or 3B.

Clarification

Any reference to a “windlass” below in this document means a “windlass or mechanical lifting device”.

A post-27 May 2004 ship that uses an anchor of less than 30 kgs and uses rope instead of anchor chain will be captured by rule 40A.61(2). This rule excludes them from complying with the requirement to have a powered or hand operated windlass in rule 40A.61(1)(a). Although the exclusion in 40A.61(2) does not specifically exclude 40A.61(b) and (d), these subrules simply provide further detail of the requirements of (a).

Once a post-27 May 2004 ship that uses an anchor of less than 30 kgs and uses rope instead of anchor chain is excluded from the requirement to have a powered or hand operated windlass in subrule (a), it is illogical for them to be captured by a rule setting out the requirement for that windlass to be of sufficient power and suitable for the size of chain (b), and the requirement for that windlass to be securely fitted to the deck of the ship (d). These subrules are not relevant to a vessel that is exempt from holding a powered windlass and as such these rules will simply fall away.

In other words, a post-27 May 2004 ship that uses an anchor of less than 30 kgs and uses rope instead of anchor chain could be raised by hand.

It should be noted that a post-27 May 2004 ship that uses an anchor of less than 30 kgs and uses rope instead of anchor chain is not required to lift the anchor by hand and can opt to comply with 40A.61(1) and use a powered or a hand operated mechanical lifting device, but if they opt to do this, the requirements in (b)-(d) will apply as normal.

The requirement of windlass and its type (powered or not) is summarised below (the reference to windlass includes mechanical lifting device) –

Weight of anchor (kgs)	Windlass requirements
≥ 50	Powered windlass
≥ 30 but < 50	Powered or manually operated windlass
< 30 (if using anchor chain)	Powered or manually operated windlass
< 30 (if using rope instead of anchor chain)	No requirement for windlass (anchor may be lifted by hand)

Further Clarification

Always keep in mind that the rule only prescribes a minimum standard, and that the owner/surveyor are always permitted and encouraged to apply a higher standard, when considered necessary. Obligations under the HSWA shall also be taken into consideration.

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