

Regulation 23*Number of Davits and Capacity of Lifeboats and Buoyant Apparatus*

(a) (i) A passenger ship shall be provided with sets of davits in accordance with its length as provided in Column A of the Table in Regulation 24 except that a number of sets of davits greater than the number of lifeboats necessary for the accommodation of all the persons on board shall not be required.

(ii) Each set of davits shall have a lifeboat attached. If these lifeboats do not provide sufficient accommodation for all persons on board, additional sets of davits with lifeboats attached shall be fitted if practicable. If the lifeboats attached to davits do not provide accommodation for all persons on board, additional lifeboats shall be carried under the lifeboats attached to davits so that accommodation for all persons is provided.

(iii) When in the opinion of the Administration it is impracticable or unreasonable to place on a ship the number of sets of davits required by Column A of the Table in Regulation 24, the Administration may authorise, under exceptional conditions, a smaller number of sets of davits as specified in Column B of the Table.

(b) (i) A passenger ship engaged on a short international voyage shall be provided with sets of davits in accordance with its length as specified in Column A of the Table in Regulation 24. Each set of davits shall have a lifeboat attached to it and these lifeboats shall provide at least the minimum capacity required by Column C of the Table or the capacity required to provide accommodation for all persons on board if less. In the case of ships certified to carry a number of persons in excess of the lifeboat capacity specified in Column C, additional lifeboats under davits or approved buoyant apparatus shall be provided so that the total accommodation afforded by all the lifeboats, together with the buoyant apparatus, shall be sufficient for all on board. In addition there shall be buoyant apparatus for 10 per cent. of all on board.

(ii) When in the opinion of the Administration it is impracticable or unreasonable to place on a ship engaged on short international voyages the number of sets of davits required by Column A of the Table in Regulation 24, the Administration may authorise, under exceptional conditions, a smaller number of sets of davits, except that this number shall never be less than the minimum number fixed by Column B of the Table, and that the total capacity of the lifeboats on the ship will be at least up to the minimum capacity required by Column C or the capacity required to provide for all persons on board if less.

(c) Passenger ships shall carry two boats attached to davits—one on each side of the ship—for use in an emergency. These boats shall be of a type approved by the Administration and shall normally be not more than 26 feet (or 8 metres) in length. They may be counted for the purposes of Regulation 22, provided that they comply fully with the requirements of this Chapter for lifeboats. They shall be kept ready for immediate use while the ship is at sea. In ships in which the requirements of Regulation 26 (j) are met by means of appliances fitted to the sides of the lifeboats, such appliances shall not be required to be fitted to the two boats provided to meet the requirements of this Regulation.