

**TENDER OPERATIONS - LAUNCHING AND RECOVERY**

<b>Scenario / Background</b>
<p><b>Pre-Launch Issues:</b> Damaged cables were found at the lifting points during pre-launch checks.</p> <p><b>Action Required:</b> The deck team must replace the cables, launch the tender, and perform a test before it is used by crew or guests.</p>
<b>Pre-activity considerations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensure crane service records are current and certified per SOLAS regulation III/20.</li><li>- Test cables, winches, and brakes by lowering an unmanned tender to confirm system functionality.</li><li>- Complete and sign all inspection/maintenance reports, with management or master approval, and store them with ship certificates.</li><li>- Use a <b>minimum of 2 crew</b>: 1 on the crane and 1 managing bow / stern lines. For non-fixed arm cranes, follow manufacturer training and certification requirements; maintain related records onboard.</li><li>- Ensure all crew involved understand their roles and there is a competent person in charge, as per vessel procedures.</li><li>- Test communications between the bridge and launch crew.</li><li>- Establish a communication chain with the master or first officer for launch permission.</li><li>- Assess weather and sea state before commencing the launch.</li></ul>
<b>Equipment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Crane, in good working order.</li><li>- PPE for all crew involved in launching the tender, including head protection, gloves, safety glasses, life jackets and kill cord for the driver.</li><li>- Bow and stern lines of sufficient length, strength and fitting to control descent and ascent of tender.</li><li>- Protection for the yacht and tender, such as fenders in the correct position.</li></ul>

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<b>Brief</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stay clear of winch machinery and fall wires; address any defects before continuing the launch.</li><li>- Monitor crane boom clearance with the tender, at all times.</li><li>- Ensure lifting points are properly connected and shackles / clips are securely closed.</li><li>- Commands must be clearly communicated and acknowledged during launch and recovery.</li><li>- Verify all crew are clear of the tender, davit, and falls before operating equipment.</li><li>- Confirm the ship's side and launch area are free of obstructions and other craft.</li><li>- Check the tender's condition before lifting; reset equipment after testing.</li><li>- Raise the tender above bulwark height.</li><li>- Crew boards from the stern only once the tender is afloat.</li><li>- Onboard crew releases the hook when cable is slack and steady, confirming verbally when clear.</li><li>- Follow proper embarkation procedures with minimal personnel in the area for safety.</li><li>- Ensure all crew are seated and wearing correct PPE throughout the operation.</li><li>- Lower the tender to the waterline per manufacturers and vessels procedures; do not release it until afloat.</li><li>- Stow the crane in full compliance with manufacturer guidelines.</li></ul>
<b>Questions to confirm learning</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What checks must be carried out to ensure the equipment is in good working order?</li><li>- What is the implication of using faulty or damaged equipment?</li><li>- What are the correct steps to launch and recover the tender?</li><li>- What are the correct steps for stowing the crane safely?</li><li>- What PPE is to be worn by crew engaged in launch / recovery operations?</li></ul>
<b>What if's / Emergency considerations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Who is responsible for equipment checks, communication, crane operation, manoeuvring of tender, crew embarkment and stowing of crane respectively?</li><li>- Are all crew clear of winch, machinery, fall wires and launch area?</li><li>- What happens if another strap breaks?</li><li>- What are the procedures in the event of falling equipment?</li><li>- What are the procedures in the event of a crew member falling?</li><li>- Where is the first aid kit and first aider?</li></ul>

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**Post activity debrief points**

- Was the work carried out in accordance with the guidance outlines and safety procedures?
- Does any equipment need to be repaired, replaced or checked more regularly?
- Could the launching procedure be improved upon?
- Is further training required to improve standards onboard?