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**Service personnel for the  
maintenance, thorough examination,  
operational testing, overhaul and  
repair of lifeboats (including free-fall  
lifeboats) and rescue boats (including  
fast rescue boats), launching  
appliances and release gear —**

**Part 4:  
Level 2 in-field competence**

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 8, *Ships and marine technology*, SC 1, *Maritime safety*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 23678 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The industry recognises that a major objective is to prevent accidents and incidents from occurring. A global network of competent personnel employed by authorized service providers is vital for lifesaving appliances to remain fit for purpose, sustaining crew confidence and contributing to the prevention of incidents and accidents.

It has been recognized from the new requirements in IMO Resolution MSC.402 (96) for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances, and release gear (henceforth referred to as "the IMO Requirements") adopted 19th May 2016 and entering into force 1st January 2020, that it is necessary to develop an International Standard. This necessity is based on the requirement in paragraph 7.1.1 of the IMO Requirements:

*"Employment and documentation of personnel certified in accordance with a recognized national, international or industry standards as applicable, or a manufacturer's established certification programme. In either case, the certification programme shall comply with section 8 for each make and type of equipment for which service is to be provided;"*

This document and the associated ISO/PAS 23678-1, ISO/PAS 23678-2 and ISO/PAS 23678-3 have been developed to achieve three key objectives.

1. The first objective was to develop training documents that would support the IMO Requirements, section 7, paragraph 7.1.1.
2. The second objective was to develop training documents that would provide a consistent, reliable, and standardised approach to training and provide a clear auditable trail for interested parties to grant authorisation supporting the IMO Requirements, section 3, to approved service providers.
3. The third objective was to develop training documents that would enable personnel certified by authorized service providers to develop and maintain competencies identified by industry experts to a level that enables them to competently work unsupervised on equipment covered by this document.

This document has been developed by identifying common design features in relation to survival craft, davits, winches and release gear makes and types for which service is to be provided. This has been achieved by conducting professional discussions with disciplined experts, to obtain the appropriate information to develop a training programme that is fit for purpose. Successfully completing ISO/PAS 23678-2, ISO/PAS 23678-3 and ISO/PAS 23678-4 enables personnel certified by an authorized service provider to meet the IMO Requirements, section 7, paragraph 7.1.1, and section 8.

The ISO/PAS 23678-series on service technician training consist of:

- Part 1: Guidance to training providers; describes the competence route of the candidate and the resources that the training provider needs to deliver the training.
- Part 2: Initial training; describes the training programme for initial familiarisation and induction training that is classroom education. The training programme focuses on introducing individuals to the complex terminology, rules and regulations, organisations, health and safety that a service technician needs to understand in order to carry out their role.
- Part 3: Level 1 training; describes the controlled environment education and training delivered at a training school. The training programme focuses on the technical training for type specific lifesaving appliances.
- Part 4: Level 2 in-field competence; describes the requirements for initial in-field and ongoing competence assessments.

NOTE ISO/PAS 23678-1, ISO/PAS 23678-2 and ISO/PAS 23678-3 are referencing typical in-house/training school training programmes. ISO/PAS 23678-4 is typical in-field performance of the personnel trained and recording of their competence

# Service personnel for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear —

## Part 4: Level 2 in-field competence

### 1 Scope

This document establishes a uniform, safe and consistent approach to the in-field competence assessment of personnel for the maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear.

It also provides the necessary information for interested parties to grant authorization, effectively evaluate and audit training, supporting the IMO Requirements, Section 3.

It specifies the Level 2 in-field initial and ongoing competence assessment for personnel certified by a manufacturer or an authorized service provider to carry out maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats) and rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear.

The training an individual receives whilst following a development process is covered in ISO/PAS 23678-2 and ISO/PAS 23678-3.

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The competence requirements contained in this document provide a clear description of performance in-field in respect to:

- a) what practitioners are expected to do;
- b) the underpinning knowledge and skills they require to enable them to do what is expected;
- c) how they can demonstrate what is expected of them;
- d) how their performance can be assessed.

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO/PAS 23678-1, ISO/PAS 23678-2 and ISO/PAS 23678-4.

This document is applicable to the following types of lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats (including fast rescue boats), launching appliances and release gear.

Survival craft types:

- a) single fall totally enclosed lifeboats with sprinkler and air systems;
- b) twin fall totally enclosed lifeboats with sprinkler and air systems;
- c) partially enclosed lifeboats;
- d) tender lifeboats;