

Replacing Lifeboat Hooks – Ensure A Stable Solution

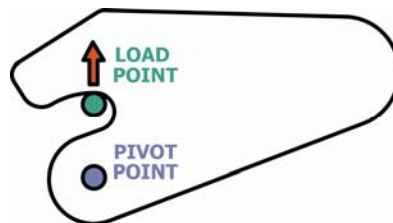
Introduction Many owners of lifeboats are considering replacing the existing hooks and release mechanisms in their lifeboats. These decisions have been reached due to significant safety considerations related to the existing hooks, and on-going maintenance related issues. This document addresses companies considering this change.

Ensure a Stable Solution The commitment and investment in replacing the hooks in a lifeboat fleet is significant. When upgrading hooks it is important to ensure that the safety of your hooks has truly been upgraded. Ensure that you upgrade to an inherently stable hook and not merely an improved but still inherently unstable hook. **Do not replace an inherently unstable hook with another inherently unstable hook** when an inherently stable hook is available.

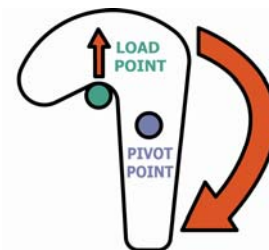
Stable Versus Unstable The diagram on the left below shows the Triple5 stable hook that has a Load Over Center design which uses the weight of the lifeboat to hold the hook closed and does not use the weight of the boat to open the hook.

The diagram on the right below shows a conventional unstable hook that does not have a Load Over Center design and which uses the weight of the boat to open the hook.

TRIPLE5 INHERENTLY STABLE HOOK
LOAD OVER PIVOT CENTER
NO ROTATIONAL FORCE



UNSTABLE HOOK
LOAD **NOT** OVER PIVOT CENTER
ROTATIONAL FORCE
(Opens the Hook)



Maintenance Issues In addition to having a significant safety advantage the stable Triple5 hook has maintenance advantages. The Triple5 hook can be taken apart and reassembled in less time than any hook on the market, therefore reducing time and cost associated with maintenance. In addition, due to the Triple5 hook's stable Load Over Center design, no hydrostatic valve is required. A hydrostatic valve is used in unstable hook designs in an attempt to prevent premature hook release, and is required due to the unstable design. The Triple5 hook therefore completely removes any required maintenance of a hydrostatic valve.
