

NORSAFE AS

Very much prepared to meet future challenges



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Norsafe AS

Norsafe is the global market leader in marine life-saving systems for the merchant and offshore markets.

Norsafe manufactures the largest free fall lifeboat in the world, certified for a drop height of 47 meters, and has also received several Design Awards for its products. Norsafe supplies and sells davits to fit all of our boats, - using our many years of combined experience and know-how to develop failsafe solutions that exceed industry standards.

Do you believe that navigating the Arctic Sea Route, life, property, environment might be at risk or not and why?

The simple act of navigating in itself always involves a part of risk. The art of Navigation not only demands competence, knowledge, attitude, understanding of the dangerousness, it also demands the seamen's acquaintance with the environment. Consequently, it goes without saying if navigating is by fact a hazardous activity, all navigations in polar region are connected with risk.

However this risk can be substantially reduced, proper measures along with training and preparation shall contribute to a safer navigation of these seas.

As part of the measures, the Polar Code entering into force January 2017 which addresses the following issues and will prepare the seafarers to navigate these waters.

Among the different chapters, 3 being very important ones, namely

1. CHAPTER 2 - POLAR WATER OPERATIONAL MANUAL (PWOM)
2. CHAPTER 8 - LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS
3. CHAPTER 11- VOYAGE PLANNING

These chapters are giving guidelines on how to operate in these waters.

Safety very much depends on the proper condition of the equipment, proper procedures and the skill and team spirit of the crew. What is your opinion about that?

Proper maintenance of LSA equipment is crucial for a safe and reliable operation, especially in harsh environments as the polar waters. In our opinion, training in both maintenance and operation are a must in order to prepare for the worst. If the worst scenario should happened, a well-trained crew team and proper maintained lifeboat system could be the difference between survival or not.

Many technologies that are commonly used in more temperate areas, such as conventional lifeboats may not work in the Arctic environment. Do you believe that conventional lifeboats or liferafts are designed for safe evacuation in Arctic ice conditions, as well?

Technologies and materials to be used in low temperatures need to be specially designed for this.

For examples, the grade of steel used in the lifting equipment. Electrical, hydraulically components and oil need to be designed for low temperatures.

The POLAR Code requires more equipment, such as personal and group survival kit, which will put extra weight on the boat and davit system.

The Code also set a minimum of a survival habitat to 5 days, meaning more food and water, again extra weight.

This extra weight is not taken into account in design of the standard SOLAS (LSA Code) lifeboats.

The result of this is that the existing lifeboat and davit design will not meet the requirement as is.

Does your company proceeds with novel safety services especially designed for the Arctic Sea Route? Would you like to analyze those services?

As we are a LSA manufacturer we do not demonstrate any services within the "Arctic Sea Route". However, we do produce special designed lifeboat and davits for this trade.

Would you like to explain what the following points mean for Norsafe?

1) Norsafe is a global market leader in marine life-saving systems for the merchant and offshore markets

This means that in order to maintaining this position we, Norsafe, need also to be the leader in research and development of new and useful lifesaving equipment.

2) Design and develop high quality products in consulting with wide groups including customers, equipment end users and regulatory authorities.

The equipment end-users are our most valuable source of improvements.

In addition, close cooperation with the regulatory authorities are of outmost importance in order to improve the regulation to better save lives.

3) Norsafe is well prepared to meet future challenges, with a wide range of products, updated "state of the art" production facilities and innovative technology.

Norsafe is very much prepared to meet challenges within the future requirements from regulations, standards and customer demands.

Norsafe is just now developing lifeboat systems to meet, not only the POLAR Code, but also the different classification societies' requirements.

4) The concept behind Norsafe Academy Hellas.

Located at the port of Lavrio in Greece, we propose courses especially designed for merchant crew, technical personnel and class representatives. Providing mandatory certification, preventive maintenance as well as operational courses, the training center gives the opportunity to carry out "hands-on" training with Norsafe Liferaft, FreeFall LifeBoats with davits, Conventional Lifeboats and Fast RescueBoat with davits. LSA specialists, Norsafe Instructors conduct training on new and modern equipment, dispensing their expertise throughout the world in the aim of ensuring the crew has the required competence needed to a successful evacuation process.

The courses can be held in-house, offshore or at our facilities.

Safety committed, Norsafe Academy has the mission to deliver hands-on LB training to ensure participants familiarization.

Please give the company profile of Norsafe.

Norsafe is the global market leader in marine life-saving systems for the merchant and offshore markets. Our company has grown rapidly over the past 25 years – from a small Norwegian company into a multinational group, with a worldwide presence.

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Our policy has also been to strengthen the service network to support delivered equipment throughout its life span. Norsafe operate their own service hubs in most key ports, and with a network of service partners, offering a truly worldwide service network. Norsafe is well prepared to meet future challenges, with a wide range of products, updated "state of the art" production facilities and innovative technology.

We were the first European lifeboat manufacturer to invest in full production facilities in China. Norsafe also an advanced davit manufacturing site in the west of Norway and a full production unit in Greece.

Norsafe Watercraft Hellas employs 98 people who can be considered specialists in manufacturing lifesaving equipment due to the experience that has been acquired over the past 40 years and even more so now, with Norsafe AS who is considered a world industry leader.

Norsafe Watercraft's range of products includes free fall and conventional lifeboats, partially enclosed lifeboats, rescue and fast rescue boats, patrol boats, pilot boats, ship tenders and ship to shore tenders. In addition a wide range of davits can be supplied to suit all aforementioned boats.

The company as part of the Norsafe Service Network has a strong and competent service team that can offer:

- 24hour service & spare parts
- Annual and 5 year inspections
- Re-hooking, upgrading & refurbishments of most kind of lifeboats.
- Service engineers ready for prompt departure to all locations either from Greece or from a number of Global Service Partners established in all main port locations.

- Maintenance programs for fleet operations based on 'Fleet Agreements'.

In parallel to building lifesaving appliances, Norsafe Watercraft Hellas through its Academy located in the port of Lavrio- Greece also provides the following trainings for daily operation & maintenance of lifesaving equipment, such as:

- OEM product training,
- Operation and maintenance training,
- STCW training courses. ■

New world record to Norsafe

Norsafe set a new world record June 25, 2015, when the 70 passenger GES50 MKIII was dropped from 40 meters with 10 persons on board. There has never before been a staffed lifeboat dropped from this height.

"The feeling of diving into the water was amazing. It was even more exciting to know that no one else has done this before", says Michael Røssland, Vice President Norsafe Academy Rosendal.

The drop was completed successfully, and the triumphant crew emerged to an applause from the supporting crew and technical staff. "The feeling of being weightless for more than 3 seconds of time felt like forever, although the wait up until the actual drop felt much longer. The crew was also surprised of the low G-forces/impact realized during the drop, and were therefore very pleased with the successful endeavor. "We knew in advance that there were no risks associated with the dropping of the lifeboat from the 40 meter height", said Røssland.

The free fall model used was a Norsafe GES50 MKIII with a capacity of 70 passengers. This is one of the largest and most advanced lifeboats in the world. Norsafe also holds the world record for highest drop without passengers on board. This record is 66.8 meters, and the drop was carried out with a Norsafe GES52, the largest free-fall lifeboat currently built by Norsafe. Norsafe's newly opened training and test center in Rosendal, is capable of performing such unique drop tests. The new tower for free fall boats is 60 meters high and can perform drops up to 40 meters with crew on board. Accordingly, standard training drops utilizing free-fall lifeboats are arranged from 19 meters height.

