



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 061 of 13th June 2012

To:	All Surveyors/Auditor
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	Annual Machinery Surveys
Reference:	CLASS – MACHINERY SURVEY

ANNUAL MACHINERY SURVEYS

The Annual Survey of Machinery is intended to establish by visual external examination that the machinery and machinery spaces are being maintained in satisfactory and safe operating condition. In particular, the steering arrangements should be carefully examined.

Due to recent problems with Emergency Generators and Emergency Fire Pumps, these items are to be tested at every AMS survey. If an Emergency Generator is not installed, then the Emergency Battery system is to be tested and proven satisfactory.

Proper and reliable operation of the steering apparatus is vital to the safe navigation of the ship; careful examination and trial of each unit incorporated in the steering system is essential. To ensure that Surveyors conduct a thorough examination of the installed equipment, a review of the manufacturer's instruction manual is recommended prior to commencing examination and testing of systems that are less familiar. Information as to the proper operating pressures of the hydraulic system and specific capabilities of the alternate and emergency features can be obtained from this source. It is equally important, that the Surveyor question the attending ship's Engineer as to problems that may have been encountered with the steering apparatus.

A pragmatic approach to affecting the Annual Survey of Machinery would be to commence same with examination of the watertight door (hinges, gaskets and dogs) in the machinery casing leading to the steering gear compartment, including the access ladder and lower hinged steel door, if fitted. Also, subsequent general examination of deck drainage arrangement including cleanliness of deck bilge wells and strainers, sight compartment tanktops for indication of hydraulic oil leakage and trace source of same, and the condition of handrails and gratings in way of steering gear machinery and controls.

Due to resent problems with closing arrangements for machinery space ventilation, it is now required that all machinery space fire dampers be visually examined. This may be accomplished by

Customer Service Center

5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:

joel@conarinagroup.com

Technical Head Office

7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (281) 370 9363,
1 (713) 204 6380

E-Mail: tho@conarinagroup.com,

houston@conarinagroup.com

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dismantling the ventilation ducts if the fire dampers are not at the outboard end of the ducts, or by providing access holes of adequate size for the attending Surveyor to ascertain that the structural and operational condition of the fire dampers are satisfactory. As many sizes of ventilation ducts exist, there can be no exact size given for these access holes. Therefore, it is suggested that the size should be approximately 300 mm X 300 mm or Ø300 mm. Furthermore, keep in mind that fire boundaries as established by SOLAS cannot be compromised; the requirements of the Load Line regulations are to be complied with as well.

REFERENCES:

CLASS – MACHINERY SURVEY

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
Cosmin Bozenovici
Naval Architect – Conarina Technical Head Office

Customer Service Center

5201 Blue Lagoon Drive, 9TH. Floor,
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (305) 716 4116,
Fax: 1 (305) 716 4117,
E-Mail:

joel@conarinagroup.com

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7111 Dekadine Ct.
Spring, Tx., 77379
Tel: 1 (281) 370 9363,
1 (713) 204 6380

E-Mail: tho@conarinagroup.com,
houston@conarinagroup.com