



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 672 of 4th March 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Enclosed space procedure renewed
Reference	MSC. 1 Circ,1477.

Enclosed space procedure renewed

Insurance clubs asked ship managers to constantly review their enclosed space entry procedures.

Enclosed space entry

Shipboard incidents relating to improper entry of and rescue from enclosed spaces continue to occur.

The cause of incidents implies the lack of awareness by crew members of the potential hazard posed by the improper entry into enclosed spaces.

The senior crew members failing to ensure that the ship management's enclosed entry procedures are adhered to prior to directing junior crew members to enter an enclosed space and the Master of the ship not being notified that an enclosed space was going to be entered.

Review existing procedures

The Administration requests managers to revise the procedure to ensure that comply with the applicable requirements.

The IMO's recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships are outlined in Resolution A.1050(27) and its guidelines for selecting portable atmosphere testing instruments can be found in MSC. 1 Circ,1477.

Section 10 of the ILO's "Code of practice for accident prevention on board ship at sea and in port provide similar practical recommendations and guidelines.

Ship managers should ensure that a risk assessment is conducted to identify all enclosed spaces on board the ship and periodically revisit the assessment to ensure its continuing validity.

Also, it is recommended to establish and inventory of all enclosed spaces on board that seafarer may enter and there is any likelihood that they might become dangerous. The inventory should record the specific characteristics of the space, the likely hazard involved, and the measures taken to prevent entry unless safety procedures are followed. Any difficulties inherent in the rescue from the space should be also considered, and solutions identified, so that in the event of an emergency, the crew is in the best position to respond quickly.

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Ensure that procedures are fully understood and followed

The problem with procedures is that good intentions often become paper pushing exercise. The purpose of the procedures is to prevent accidents and not simply to satisfy the regulations.

The Master should instruct the crew for:

- the danger of improperly entering an enclosed space
- how to recognize an enclosed an enclosed space and examples of different types of enclosed spaces a seafarer might encounter while performing their day-by-day shipboard tasks
- that all seafarers, regardless of seniority, must not enter an enclosed space without permission and then only in accordance with the ship management's established procedure
- who onboard is authorized to permit entry into an enclosed space
- that the best way for a seafarer to assist a fellow seafarer inside an enclosed space is to immediately raise the alarm so that an organized rescue can be conducted in accordance with ship management's established procedures.

Provide proper onboard training

It important that seafarers are given proper onboard training to help them recognize, evaluate, and control hazards associated with entry into enclosed spaces.

The Master should hold a special safety meeting with particular emphasis on enforcing the responsibility that all seafarers must prevent enclosed space entry related incidents and the need for crew members to resist their natural urge to immediately enter an enclosed space to assist a fellow crew member.

CONARINA auditors should address the above procedure during safety management audits.

REFERENCES:

- IMO, CONARINA and Gard

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,

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