



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 686 of 6th June 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Fuel Quality and Safety
Reference	SOLAS regulation II 2/4.2.1

FUEL QUALITY AND SAFETY

Plan for Further Work

The Committee agreed to an updated action plan which called for an extended target completion to 2023 for the output "Development of further measures to enhance the safety of ships relating to the use of fuel oil". A correspondence group (CG) will be re-established with a view towards drafting amendments on; reporting of confirmed cases where oil fuel suppliers have failed to meet the flashpoint requirements taking into account that feedback should also be provided to the supplier, actions against oil fuel suppliers that have been found to deliver oil fuel that does not comply with minimum flashpoint requirements, and, the documentation of the flashpoint of the actual fuel batch when bunkering. The CG will also further develop the guidelines for ships to address situations where indicative test results suggest that the oil fuel supplied may not comply with SOLAS regulation II-2/4.2.1, and to collect information on and consider possible measures related to oil fuel parameters other than flashpoint. The CG was requested to submit a written report to MSC 105.

Guidelines for Fishing Vessels of 24m in Length and Over Operating in Polar Waters

This addresses fishing vessels of 24 meters in length and over. The provision onboard of a supplementary operating manual for operations in polar waters is recommended, which should include information on vessel capabilities, equipment functionality and maintenance in low temperatures, and incident response procedures.

Guidelines for Pleasure Yachts of 300 GT and Above Not Engaged in Trade Operating in Polar Waters

Similar to the above, the Committee also approved recommendatory guidelines for pleasure yachts of 300 GT and above operating in polar waters and not engaged in trade.

Both these guidelines are not intended to infringe on national requirements for polar operations, but do provide guidance on assessing operational hazards and equipment for fishing vessels and

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yachts for their adequacy in the polar environment.

SHIP SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

Guidelines for Maintenance/Inspections of Fixed Carbon Dioxide Fire-Extinguishing Systems

The Committee approved amendments to the *Guidelines for the Maintenance and Inspection of Fixed Carbon Dioxide Fire-Extinguishing Systems* (MSC.1/Circ.1318), in order to address concerns that there is a lack of clarity in the standard regarding the frequency of hydrostatic testing required for storage cylinders. The amended standard will require that at the 10-year inspection of the system, at least 10% of the total number of cylinders will be tested, and before the 20-year anniversary and every 10-year anniversary thereafter, all remaining bottles should be subject to a hydrostatic test. It is also clarified that when cylinders are removed for testing, they should be replaced such that the quantity of fire-extinguishing medium continues to satisfy the requirements of Chapter 5 of the FSS Code. Additionally, at least once every 5 years, internal inspection of all control valves should be performed.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS regulation II-2/4.2.1

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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