



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 692 of 4th August 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Changes to enclosed spaces regulations on ships
Reference	SOLAS Amendments

Changes to enclosed spaces regulations on ships

Following an incident involving entry in enclosed spaces procedures Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) is proposing changes to enclosed space regulations on ships. Enclosed spaces present one of the biggest hazards to those working on board ships and fishing vessels. Without positive ventilation, the atmosphere within an enclosed space can quickly deteriorate and result in oxygen deficiency, become toxic, flammable or explosive. Enclosed space hazards are not limited to atmosphere contamination; other dangers can include exposure to extreme heat or flooding.

MAIB has conducted many investigations into fatal accidents that occurred in enclosed spaces on both merchant ships and commercial fishing vessels. In its most recent report of the investigation of the death of a crew member on board the UK registered fishing vessel SUNBEAM, it made a recommendation, that was accepted by the MCA, to apply the Merchant Shipping (Entry into Dangerous Spaces) Regulations 1988 to all commercial fishing vessels.

The proposed merchant shipping and fishing vessels (entry into enclosed spaces) regulations 2021 would replace the merchant shipping (entry into dangerous spaces) regulations 1988.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS and MAIB

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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