



## TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 695 of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Fire Damper Inspection Ports</b>
Reference	SOLAS and MSC365(93)

### Fire Damper Inspection Ports

While patrolling on a general cargo vessel, the surveyor found that *inspection ports* were missing on the fire damper's accommodation ventilation ducts.

There are no drawings on board to indicate inspection port details.

As required by MSC 365(93), an amendment to SOLAS, ventilation ducts shall be provided with hatches for inspection and cleaning.

The hatches shall be located near the fire dampers.

A lack of inspection and maintenance may result in inoperable fire dampers.

A failure to contain a fire during an emergency may increase the risk of safety to life, property, and the natural environment.

All fire dampers were reinspected, and three dampers were found noncompliant.

An inspection port of 350 millimeters by 300 millimeters in size was provided on the duct near the damper to facilitate the survey of the damper without disassembling the vent duct.

By identifying and resolving this issue, CONARINA Head Office was informed. The risk of a future port or flag State detention regarding the inspection hatches for the fire damper was reduced, and potential claims from the client to cover the costs of in-service repairs were avoided.

Knowing the Rules and statutory requirements allows the surveyor to stay situationally aware and perform your surveys better.

Please note: Vessels constructed on or after 1 January 2016 shall have inspection ports to maintain and clean the ventilation dampers.

#### REFERENCES:

- SOLAS and MSC365(93)

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
CONARINA Technical Office

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