



## TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 716 of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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| To        | All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags |
| Title     | <b>Ship alarms</b>                |
| Reference | CONARINA Instructions             |

### **Ship emergency signals and alarms**

Ship emergency signals and alarms can tackle a crisis or avoid an emergency efficiently.

Emergency signals and alarms on a ship are installed all over the vessel's various systems and machinery to notify the crew about a dangerous situation that can arise from different types of emergencies on board the ship.

#### *Types of alarms on ships*

The following emergency signals and alarms are installed to give audio-visual warnings:

#### 1. General Alarms

The general emergency alarm on the ship is recognized by 7 short ringing of the bell followed by a long ring or using the ship horn signal of 7 short blasts followed by 1 long blast.

The general emergency alarm, which is located in the navigation bridge, is sounded to make the crew aware that an emergency has occurred, e.g. fire, collision, grounding, or a scenario that can lead to abandoning the ship.

#### 2. Fire Alarms

The fire alarm signal is sounded as the continuous ringing of the electrical bell or the continuous sounding of the ship's horn for not less than 10 sec. Once the Master decides to dismiss the crew from fire stations, the general alarm will be sounded three times, followed by three short blasts of the ship's whistle.

#### 3. Man Overboard Alarms

When a man falls overboard, the man overboard alarm sound signal is activated on the ship.

The MOB alarm signal comprising the vessel's internal alarm bell for 3 long rings to notify the crew onboard, along with 3 long blasts on the ship whistle to inform the other ships in the nearby vicinity.

A MOB signal comprising light and smoke can also be mounted in the bridge, attached by the side of the the lifebuoy. When thrown in the water, it will emit smoke and light.

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#### 4. Abandon Ship Alarm

When the ship is no longer safe for the crew on board ship, the signal for abandon ship is given verbally by the Master to the station in charge of the crew on the ship's Personal Addressing (PA) system.

More than six short blasts and one prolonged blast on the ship's whistle and the same signal on the general alarm bell is used as an abandon ship alarm or sound signal onboard ship.

The Master gives a verbal order to abandon the ship.

#### 5. Navigation Alarm

In the navigation bridge, most of the navigation equipment and navigation lights are fitted with failure alarms. If any of these malfunctions, a ship alarm signal on the bridge will be sounded whose details, location, equipment affected, type of problem, etc, will be displayed on the notification screen provided on the bridge navigation panel.

#### 6. Machinery Space Alarm

The ship's engine room is fitted with different machineries, which is continuous monitored for its operations using a control and monitoring system.

The machinery in the engine room has various safety devices and alarms fitted for safe operation. If any machinery malfunctions, a common engine room alarm is operated, and the problem can be seen in the control room alarm panel, which will display the alarm.

#### 7. Machinery Space CO<sub>2</sub> Alarm

The machinery space is fitted with a CO<sub>2</sub> fixed fire extinguishing system. The audible and visual alarm for the CO<sub>2</sub> fixed fire extinguishing system is entirely different from the machinery space alarm and other ship alarm signals for easy reorganization. The alarm should activate upon opening the release cabinet door, which is used to open and release the CO<sub>2</sub> bottle banks.

#### 8. Cargo Space CO<sub>2</sub> Alarm

The ship cargo spaces are also fitted with a fixed firefighting system that has a different alarm when operated. The audible and visual alarm for the CO<sub>2</sub> fixed firefighting system is entirely different from the other ship alarms; the audible alarm should be distinguished from other alarm in a ship by adjusting sound pressure or sound patterns.

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#### 9. Ship Security Alarm Systems

As per SOLAS Chapter XI Regulation XI-2/5, all ships shall be provided with a ship security alert system. The Ship Security Alarm System (SSAS) is silent sounded in a pirate attack emergency. When the (SSAS) is activated, no alarm is sounded on board the ship nor alert other vessels in the vicinity. Instead, this signal notifies different coastal authorities or competent authorities, whose proximity the ship is presently operating via a global satellite system to inform about the piracy.

#### REFERENCES:

- Alarm on board

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,  
CONARINA Technical Office

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