



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 790 of 6th August 2023

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Chapter II-1
Reference	SOLAS

Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Chapter II-1

The Committee approved circular MSC.1/Circ.1362/Rev.2 containing two new Unified Interpretations (UI) related to SOLAS Chapter II-1:

1) SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-8 – Mooring Arrangements and Equipment

This UI new interpretations clarify the criteria for the application of:

- Revised Guidance on Shipboard Towing and Mooring Equipment (MSC.1/Circ.1175/Rev.1),
- Guidelines on The Design of Mooring Arrangements and the Selection of Appropriate Mooring Equipment and Fittings for Safe Mooring (MSC.1/Circ.1619), and
- Guidelines for Inspection and Maintenance of Mooring Equipment Including Lines (MSC.1/Circ.1620), and describes the documentation required for demonstrating compliance with these guidelines on mooring equipment.

These circulars will be effective for ships constructed on or after 1 January 2024, except for MSC.1/Circ.1620, which will be effective for all ships from 1 January 2024.

2) SOLAS Regulation II-1/13.2.3 – Clarification on Penetrations in Watertight Divisions – Pressure Testing After a Fire Test

This UI concerning penetrations in watertight divisions on a passenger ship for pressure testing after a fire test. Any penetration used for the passage of heat sensitive piping systems through a watertight bulkhead on a passenger ship must be tested with the heat sensitive piping and approved for watertight integrity post fire.

Additionally, the Committee adopted two additional circulars containing UIs to SOLAS Chapter II-1:

- 1) MSC.1/Circ.1673 – Application of SOLAS Chapter II-1 Regulation 1.1.3 This UI provides interpretation of amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-1 adopted by resolutions MSC.474(102) and

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MSC.482(103) to clarify the application of several regulations. The document proposes a unified interpretation about the expressions "ships constructed before 1 January 2024" and "Multiple hold cargo ships other than bulk carriers and tankers constructed on or after 1 January 2024".

The interpretation addressing Resolution MSC.474(102) clarifies which set of requirements shall apply to ships with a contract date before 1 January 2024 but with a construction date between 1 January 2024 and 1 July 2024.

- For Resolution MSC.482(103), SOLAS regulation II-1/1 defines the term "ships constructed" as those whose keels have been laid or are at a similar stage of construction. However, it does not provide a definition for the term "Multiple hold cargo ships other than bulk carriers and tankers constructed on or after 1 January 2024", thus, an interpretation was required.

2) MSC.1/Circ.1557/Rev.1 – SOLAS Ch.II-1 / Regulation 45.11 – Precaution Against Shock, Fire and Other Hazards of Electrical Origin

This UI amends an MSC circular on the Revised Hazardous Area Classification in respect of the selection of electrical equipment, cables and wiring and positioning of openings and air intakes to address inconsistencies between the standard IEC 60092-502 published by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and relevant IMO instruments.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS MSC

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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