



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 836 of 4th August 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Escape from Machinery Spaces
Reference	SOLAS II2/13.4

Escape from Machinery Spaces of Category A Purpose

The arrangements associated with the emergency escape tunnel from machinery spaces of category A. SOLAS II2/13.4, as supplemented by MSC.1-Circ.1511, addresses escape from machinery spaces of category A, including the use of a ladder located within a protected enclosure from the lower part of the space it serves. Common Industry Practice Common industry practice has been having an inclined ladder from the lowest level of the engine room leading to a platform 1.5 m – 2.3 m above deck and providing access to the escape tunnel. The below photograph is an arrangement of emergency escape tunnel not running to the lowest level of the space it serves. Flag Administration acceptance of such arrangements is to be secured.

China MSA China MSA have indicated a focus on the arrangements and advised that vessels they find, where arrangements have not extended to the lowest level of the Machinery Space of Category A and are without flag Administration acceptance, will be subject to detention.

The following actions are being taken:

- Contact with Flag Administrations: For vessels where arrangements have the escape tunnel which does not run to the lowest level of the space which it serves, contact is being made with the flag Administration to secure their input on the arrangement.
- Facility Comment: A facility comment is being created for the issue to be reviewed during the next survey. The emergency escape tunnel running to the lowest level of the space is to be confirmed, and if not, confirmation that the flag Administration have accepted the arrangements is to be obtained.

Guidance for Engineering When reviewing arrangements with emergency escape trunks from machinery spaces of category A, confirm that the trunk runs from the lowest level of the space it serves. If this is not the case, approval of the arrangements is to be obtained from the flag Administration.

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REFERENCES:

- SOLAS II/13.4, MSC.1-Circ.1511

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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