



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 839 of 7th August 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Fire Safety on Ro/Ro ship spaces
Reference	SOLAS Chapter II-2

Fire Safety on Ships Fitted with Vehicle, Special Category, Open and Closed Ro/Ro Spaces and Weather Decks Intended for the Carriage of Vehicles

In follow-up to the initial review of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) FIRESAFE and FIRESAFE II studies to investigate cost effective measures to reduce the risk of fires on ro-ro passenger ships from 2016 to 2018, and subsequent amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2 and the associated codes, the Committee adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapters II-2 (resolution MSC.550(108)), relating to vehicles, special category, ro/ro spaces, and weather decks of both new and existing ro/ro ships. These amendments address principal fire protection measures, such as fixed water-based fire-extinguishing systems protecting weather decks, openings in ro/ro spaces provided with closing devices, continuous video monitoring for existing ships and safety distance from accommodation and openings of ro/ro spaces and weather ro/ro deck; to include, but not limited to: Linear heat detectors in SOLAS and the FSS Code. The amended regulations include changes to SOLAS regulation II-2/20.4.1 and among others require the fixed fire detection and alarm system to have smoke and heat detectors throughout vehicle, special category and ro/ro spaces. The Administration may accept linear heat detectors as the required system for heat detection. When installed, the system must be tested under normal ventilation conditions. Additionally, fixed fire detection and alarm systems shall be provided for the area on the weather deck intended for vehicle carriage.

Existing ships shall also comply with these changes, and smoke detectors cannot be substituted. Video monitoring The amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/20.4.4 requiring an effective video monitoring system shall be arranged in vehicles, special category and ro/ro spaces for continuous monitoring of these spaces. The system shall be provided with immediate playback capability to

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allow for quick identification of fire location, as far as practicable. Cameras shall be installed to cover the whole space, high enough to see over cargo and vehicles after loading.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS Chapter II-2

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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