



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 840 of 4th September 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Arrangement of openings in ro/ro ships
Reference	SOLAS regulation II-2

Arrangement of openings in ro/ro and special category spaces on new ro/ro passenger ship

Regarding amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/20.5.2 on the arrangements for openings in ro/ro spaces and special category spaces on new ro/ro passenger ships, the term "normally occupied service spaces" was approved for service spaces that do not need extra protection beyond the existing requirements in SOLAS regulation II-2/9.2.

In addition, it was decided the safety distance can be reduced to 3.0 m when boundaries, including windows and doors, within 6.0 m are of "A-60" integrity. Alternatively, "A-0" class with a water-based system with an application rate of at least 5.0 L/min per square meter to define in detail the extent of the entire area that needs protection. Arrangement of weather deck on new ro/ro passenger ship Regarding amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/20.5.3 on the arrangement of weather decks and special category spaces on new ro/ro passenger ships, it was agreed to use the term "normally occupied service spaces." Considering the safety distance from designated vehicle lanes to accommodation spaces, control stations and normally occupied service spaces in superstructures and deckhouses adjacent to the weather deck, the safety distance can be reduced to 3.0 m when boundaries, including windows and doors, within 6.0 m are of "A-60" integrity. Alternatively, "A-0" boundaries protected by a water-based system with an application rate of at least 5.0 L/min per square meter may be accepted as equivalent. Water monitors for protection of weather deck on existing ro/ro passenger ship

The amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/20.6.2 introduce a retroactive requirement for water monitors to protect the weather deck on existing ro/ro passenger ships.

For existing ships, a fixed water-based fire extinguishing system based on the monitor(s) shall be installed to protect areas on weather decks intended for the carriage of vehicles.

Also, a new section 7 specifies that new vessels, in passenger, vehicle, special category and ro/ro spaces where fixed pressure water-spraying systems are fitted shall be provided with suitable signage and marking on the deckhead and bulkhead and on the vertical boundaries allowing easy identification of the sections of the fixed fire extinguishing system. Suitable signage and markings shall be adapted to typical crew movement patterns, considering obstruction by cargo or fixed installations. The section numbering indicated inside the space shall be the same as the section

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valve identification and the section identification at the safety center or continuously manned control station.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS regulation II-2/20.5.2

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

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