



Ref. T4/4.01

MSC/Circ.1008
8 June 2001

**REVISIONS TO INTERPRETATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE FOR
APPLICATION OF FIRE TEST PROCEDURES (FTP CODE) AND FIRE TEST
PROCEDURES REFERRED TO IN THE CODE (MSC/CIRC.916)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-seventh session (2 to 6 December 1996), adopted resolutions MSC.57(67) and MSC.61(67) respectively amending SOLAS chapter II-2 and adopting the mandatory International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures (FTP Code). These resolutions entered into force on 1 July 1998.

2 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-first session (19 to 28 May 1999), approved Interpretations of the International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures (FTP Code) and fire test procedures referred to in the Code (MSC/Circ.916). The annex to this aforementioned circular provides the following interpretation regarding paragraph 2.6.2 of Annex 1: Part 2 of the FTP Code (smoke and toxicity test):

“Not only the FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer) method but also other methods such as GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer) which can produce traceable results can be used for the gas analysis”.

3 In light of discussions of the above smoke and toxicity test requirements and methodologies, the Maritime Safety Committee agreed at its seventy-fourth session (30 May to 8 June 2001) that the gas concentration limit for sulphur dioxide (120 ppm) specified in Annex 1: Part 2 of the FTP Code may need to be reviewed and revised for floor coverings. The Committee further agreed that an interim measure to address the problem of testing the emissions of sulphur dioxide from floor coverings was needed. However, the Committee noted that it would not be appropriate as an interim solution, to amend the relevant requirements of the FTP Code. Instead, it was agreed that the interpretation reproduced in paragraph 2 above should be replaced with the following:

“Not only the FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer) method but also other methods such as GC/MS (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer) which can produce traceable results can be used for the gas analysis. This advice does not apply to the testing of floor coverings in respect of determining the gas concentration limit for SO₂.”

4 Member Governments are invited to apply the revised interpretation in paragraph 3 above, when testing floor coverings on or after 8 June 2001.

5 Member Governments are also invited to bring these revisions to the attention of all parties involved in the testing and approval of floor coverings.