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UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE REVISED SOLAS CHAPTER II-2

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-fifth session (15 to 24 May 2002), with a view to ensuring uniform application of the fire protection, fire detection and fire extinction provisions of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended by resolution MSC.99(73), containing vague wording which is open to diverging interpretations, approved unified interpretations, as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying relevant provisions of the revised SOLAS chapter II-2 and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE REVISED SOLAS CHAPTER II-2

Regulation 4 – Probability of ignition

4.2.2.3.4

Controls for remote operation of the valve for emergency generator fuel tank

The wording “separate location” does not mean separate spaces.

4.2.4

Arrangements for other flammable oils

The second sentence of regulation II-2/4.2.4 is not applicable to hydraulic valves and cylinders located on weather decks, in tanks, cofferdams or void spaces.

4.5.1.1

Separation of cargo oil tanks

Pump-rooms intended solely for ballast transfer need not comply with the requirements of regulation II-2/4.5.10. The requirements of regulation II-2/4.5.10 are only applicable to the pump-rooms where pumps for cargo, such as cargo pumps, stripping pumps, pumps for slop tanks, pumps for COW or similar pumps are provided.

4.5.10.1.2

Emergency lighting

Where the lighting in cargo pump-rooms can be commonly used as the emergency lighting, this lighting should be interlocked with the ventilation systems. However, this interlock should not prevent operation of the emergency lighting in case of the loss of the main source of electrical power.

4.5.10.1

Bilge level monitoring devices

Bilge high-level alarms are acceptable as an alternative means for the level monitoring devices.

Regulation 9 – Containment of fire

9.4.1.1.2

Fire testing of watertight doors

Watertight doors constructed in accordance with SOLAS regulation II-1/15 and fitted below the bulkhead deck that are required to be watertight need not be tested to the Fire Test Procedures Code provided that the doors meet the requirements for water tightness in SOLAS regulation II-1/18.

Regulation 10 – Fire-fighting

10.4.3

Storage rooms for fire-extinguishing medium

The following requirements are applicable only for the storage rooms for fire-extinguishing media of fixed gas fire-extinguishing systems:

- .1 the storage room should be used for no other purposes (last part of the first sentence*);
- .2 if the storage space is located below deck, it should be located no more than one deck below the open deck and should be directly accessible by a stairway or ladder from the open deck (3rd sentence);
- .3 spaces which are located below deck or spaces where access from the open deck is not provided, should be fitted with a mechanical ventilation system designed to take exhaust air from the bottom of the space and should be sized to provide at least 6 air changes per hour (4th sentence); and
- .4 access doors should open outwards, and bulkheads and decks including doors and other means of closing any opening therein, which form the boundaries between such rooms and adjacent enclosed spaces should be gas tight (5th sentence).

Regulation 13 – Means of escape

13.3.2.3

Direct access to stairway enclosures

Direct access to escape stairway enclosures is only intended for those areas of an accommodation space as defined in regulation II-2/3.39 for public spaces. Portions of an accommodation space that serve a purpose different than that of a public space such as theatre backstage areas, should not have direct access to escape stairway enclosures.

* Refer to SOLAS regulation II-2/10.4.3.