

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR

Telephone: 020 7735 7611  
Fax: 020 7587 3210  
Telex: 23588 IMOLDN G



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Ref. T4/4.01

MSC/Circ.965  
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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF VAGUE EXPRESSIONS AND OTHER  
VAGUE WORDING OF SOLAS CHAPTER II-2**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), approved, with a view to ensuring uniform application of the requirements of SOLAS regulations II-2/34 and 49 containing vague wording which is open to diverging interpretations, the unified interpretations prepared by the Sub-Committee on Fire Protection, at its forty-fourth session, as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed interpretations as guidance when applying relevant provisions of SOLAS chapter II-2 to fire protection construction, installation, arrangements and equipment to be installed on board ships on or after 26 May 2000, in order to fulfill the requirements of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, and to bring the interpretations to the attention of all parties concerned.

3 Member Governments are also advised to take into account earlier interpretations to SOLAS chapter II-2 approved by MSC 69, as given in MSC/Circ.847.

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**ANNEX****INTERPRETATIONS OF VAGUE EXPRESSIONS AND OTHER  
VAGUE WORDING IN SOLAS CHAPTER II-2****Regulations II-2/34 and 49 – Restricted use of combustibles**

34.3, 34.7, 49.1 and 49.2\*     *Surfaces*

Surfaces referred to in regulations II-2/34.3, 34.7, 49.1 and 49.2 are those of bulkheads, decks, floor coverings, wall linings and ceilings as appropriate. The requirements described within these regulations are not meant to apply to plastic pipes, electric cables and furniture.

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\* The numbering "34.3" means paragraph 3 of regulation 34 of SOLAS chapter II-2.