

| تعليمية   |  |
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| الرمز: ق ش ب / د ت س / ت ع ٩/<br>الإصدار: ٠٠<br>التاريخ: ١٠ أكتوبر ٢٠١٦ | Periodic Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Fixed Bulk Dry Powder Fire Extinguishing Systems |

## Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters, Recognized Organizations

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Regulations and standards applicable to this Notice are:-

SOLAS Chapter II-2 Regulations 14.1 and 14.2.2

IMO MSC / Circ. 850, Guidelines for the maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and appliances

### 2. ANNUAL INSPECTION

Annual inspections are to be undertaken by an accredited service agent. The system should be visually inspected, e.g. for leakages, clear nozzles, pipe condition, charging pressure, etc., and the dry powder charge should be fully agitated with nitrogen, in accordance with system manufacturers' instructions.

Note: due to the powder's affinity for moisture, any nitrogen gas introduced for agitation must be moisture free.

Only in exceptional circumstances, the annual inspection may be carried out by a member of the ship's crew who has received the necessary training, specific to the onboard system carried, and who carries out the work under direct supervision of a senior officer holding an advanced fire fighting certificate (experienced person holding a Merchant Shipping STCW II/2 or III/2 unlimited certificate of competency and an Advanced Fire Fighting certificate). All work should be carried out as part of a Planned Maintenance System with all necessary procedures, work instructions, manuals, tools, spares and calibrated test equipment readily available.

### 3. 2-YEARLY INSPECTION

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In addition to the inspections referred to in section 2, the following should be undertaken at least once every two years by an accredited service agent.

- Blow-through with nitrogen to ensure associated pipes and nozzles are clear.
- Operational test of local and remote controls and section valves.
- Contents verification of propellant gas cylinders containing nitrogen (including remote operating stations).
- Sample of dry powder should be tested for moisture content.
- Powder containment vessels safety valves and discharge hoses should be subjected to a full working pressure test.

#### 4. 10-YEARLY INSPECTION

Powder containment vessels and associated piping should be subject to hydraulic testing carried out by an accredited service agent at intervals not exceeding 10 years.

#### 5. ADDITIONAL NOTES

The replenishment and test regime for the high-pressure nitrogen cylinders is identical to that for CO2 cylinders for fixed-gas fire extinguishing systems.