

Means of Communication for Fire-fighters

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships part R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B

Reason for Amendment

In 2008, lack of communication among fire-fighters in the engine-room of the Swedish tanker “Ek-River” led to more extensive damage than there should have been. As a result of this incident, the IMO decided to hold discussions on the on board means of communication used by ship personnel engaged in fire-fighting.

At the 91st Session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC91) held in November 2012, it was agreed to an amendment to SOLAS which requires that two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus be provided on board to serve as the means of communication between fire-fighters. This amendment was adopted as IMO Res. MSC.338(91).

Therefore, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with IMO Res. MSC.338(91).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified that a minimum of two two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus for each fire party is to be carried on board.
- (2) Specified that a survey is to be carried out by the first survey on or after 1 July 2018 in order to verify compliance with (1) above for ships at the beginning stage of construction prior to 1 July 2014.