

# **Arrangement of Fuel Oil Tanks in Machinery Spaces of Category A**

## **Amended Guidance**

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R

## **Reason for Amendment**

With respect to fuel oil tanks arranged in machinery spaces of category A, SOLAS II-2/Reg.4.2.2.3.2 specifies that fuel oil tanks shall preferably have a common boundary with the double bottom tanks, and the area of the tank boundary common with the machinery spaces shall be kept to a minimum. Having considered the purpose of this regulation, the ClassNK Rules accept arrangements in which cofferdams are provided under the bottoms of such fuel oil tanks as long as no equipment which is highly combustible or flammable is installed beneath the cofferdams.

On the other hand, due to the recent strengthening of environmental regulations, machineries and equipment such as ballast water treatment apparatuses, etc. are now required to be installed within machinery spaces, thus making it difficult to ensure space in machinery spaces. Because of this, the effective use of space within machinery spaces has become a serious matter of concern for shipyards and has led to investigations of various alternative arrangements.

Taking into account the above situation and the fact that recent amendments made to SOLAS have served to enhance fire safety of highly combustible or flammable equipment such as purifiers, etc. by protecting said equipment with fixed local application fire-fighting systems and other means, ClassNK conducted a review of its Rules and relevant requirements were amended in order to make it possible to install equipment such as purifiers, etc. beneath cofferdams located under fuel oil tanks.

## **Outline of Amendment**

Amended requirements related to installation of equipment beneath cofferdams provided under the bottoms of fuel oil tanks in machinery spaces of category A.