

Inclusion of the Weight of Fire-extinguishing Media in Lightweight

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts A, P, and R
Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems
Guidance for High Speed Craft
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Inland Waterway Ships

Reason for Amendment

SOLAS defines lightweight as the displacement of a ship in tonnes without cargo, fuel, lubricating oil, ballast water, fresh water and feed water in tanks, consumable stores, and passengers and crew and their effects. However, it is not clear whether the weight of fire-extinguishing media being stored on board for firefighting systems is to be included in the lightweight of a ship. Therefore, IACS discussed this matter and adopted IACS UI SC273 in November 2015 as a result. IACS concluded that such weight should be included in the lightweight since such media are typically stored on board at all times for emergencies and are not a traditional consumable store.

The above unified interpretation was discussed at the 3rd Session of IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC3) held in January 2016, and new IMO circulars were proposed based upon UI SC273, but which also included freshwater used for firefighting as a fire-extinguishing medium for firefighting systems, etc. This modified version of UI SC273 was subsequently approved by IMO as MSC.1/Circ.1537, MSC.1/Circ.1539, MSC.1/Circ.1540, MSC.1/Circ.1541 and MSC.1/Circ.1542 at the 96th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC96) held in May 2016; moreover, MEPC.1/Circ.867 were approved at the 70th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC70) held in October 2016. IACS amended IACS UI SC273 accordingly as IACS UI SC273 (Rev.1) so that it is consistent with the aforementioned circulars.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with the above circulars.

Outline of Amendment

Specified that the weight of mediums on board for the fixed firefighting systems (e.g. freshwater, CO₂, dry chemical powder, foam concentrate, etc.) is to be included in the lightweight.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part A: A2.1.29
Part P: P1.2.10
Part R: R3.2.28
Guidance for High Speed Craft Part 1 2.1.28
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships Annex 7-1 Table 7-1-A1
Guidance for Marine Pollution Prevention Systems Part 1 2.1.1
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Inland Waterway Ships Part 1 2.1.30, Part 9 2.2.11