

Time of Power Supply to the Fixed Fire Detection and Fire Alarm System

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships

Reason for Amendment

Chapter 9 of the Fire Safety System Code (FSS Code) contains requirements related to fire-extinguishing systems, etc. and specifies that there are to be no less than two sources of power supply for fixed fire detection and fire alarm systems, one of which is to be an emergency source of power.

Regarding the emergency source of power, the amount of power supplied is to be sufficient to allow the operation of the fire detection and fire alarm system for the time periods specified in regulations 42 and 43 of SOLAS II-1: 18 hours for cargo ships and 36 hours for passenger ships. In addition, the emergency source of power is to be capable of providing enough power to allow the operation of visual and audible fire alarms for a period of at least 30 minutes. However, it is not clear whether this 30-minute time period is to be included within the required operation time of the system or whether it is to be treated as a separate additional time period.

As a result of discussions at the 3rd Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE3) held in March 2016, the IMO developed a unified interpretation which specifies that the required operation time of visual and audible fire alarms is to be considered to be included in the required operation time of the system as a whole, and not treated as separate additional time period. This interpretation was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1554 at the 97th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC97) held in November 2016.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.1/Circ.1554.

Outline of Amendment

Specified that the required operation time of visual and audible alarms is to be the final 30 minutes of the required operation time of fire detection and alarm systems with respect to emergency sources of power supply.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part R: R29.2.2
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships Annex 7-1 Table 7-1-B1