

Calibration Means for Portable Gas Detection Instruments

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and R
Rules for High Speed Craft
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and R
Guidance for High Speed Craft

Reason for Amendment

Regulation 7 of SOLAS chapter XI-1, which was adopted by the IMO as resolution MSC.380(94) in 2014, specifies that portable gas detection instruments capable of measuring the atmosphere within enclosed spaces prior to entry are to be provided on board in order to prevent serious injuries due to a lack of oxygen, etc. when entering enclosed spaces, such as cargo holds and machinery rooms, etc. It is also specified that “suitable means shall be provided for the calibration of all such instruments”, but it is unclear as to which means are considered to be suitable.

For this reason, a unified interpretation was developed by the IMO to clarify that portable gas detection instruments are to be calibrated on board or ashore in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. This unified interpretation was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1561 at the 97th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC97) held in November 2016.

The rationale behind MSC.1/Circ.1561 was subsequently applied to the development of a unified interpretation for the Regulation 4.5.7 of SOLAS chapter II-2 related to the provision of portable gas detection instruments for tankers at SSE4 held in March 2017. This unified interpretation was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1581 at MSC98 held in June 2017.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1561 and MSC.1/Circ.1581.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified that portable gas detection instruments are to be calibrated on board or ashore in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- (2) Amended requirements in Part R of the Rules related to the number of portable gas detection instruments required to be provided so their respective wording is consistent with the SOLAS Convention.

Amended Requirements

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part B: Table B3.2
Part R: 4.5.7
Rules for High Speed Craft Part 2 3.3.1
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part B: B1.5, B3.3.2
Part R: R4.5.5, R4.5.7, R4.5.10
Guidance for High Speed Craft Part 14 1.2