

Unified Interpretations for Inert Gas Systems

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R

Reason for Amendment

The expanding of the scope of application of the requirements for the installation of inert gas systems was considered at the 93rd session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC93) held in May 2014. As a result of the deliberations, related amendments to Chapter II-2 of SOLAS and Chapter 15 of International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code), including revised specifications of inert gas systems, were adopted as resolutions MSC.365(93) and MSC.367(93), respectively. These amendments have already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

In a subsequent review of the IMO revisions, it was pointed out within the IACS that some requirements in the revised Chapter 15 of the FSS Code contained ambiguities. In this regard, IACS held discussions to resolve this issue, which resulted in the development of a draft proposal for an IACS Unified Interpretation (UI).

This proposal was submitted for discussion at the 4th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE4) held in March 2017. Consequently, the IMO developed a unified interpretation based upon the IACS proposal, and this was later approved as MSC.1/Circ.1582 at MSC98 held in June 2017.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1582.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Clarified the cases where the automatic shutdown of inert gas systems is required.
- (2) Clarified the way to indicate unambiguous information on control panels regarding the operational status of stop valves in branch piping leading from inert gas mains to cargo tanks.
- (3) Clarified the specifications of the independent alarm systems required for inert gas systems.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part R: R35.2.2