

Foam Firefighting Appliances for Helidecks and Helicopter Landing Areas

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts P, PS, and R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts B and R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships

Reason for Amendment

The provision of additional fire safety requirements for those helicopter landing areas only designed for the occasional or emergency landing of helicopters, and the establishment of performance criteria for foam firefighting appliances intended to protect such helicopter landing areas as well as all helidecks are matters which the IMO held discussions on for a number of years.

As a result of these discussions, the IMO decided to add a new chapter (Chapter 17), which details the specifications for foam firefighting appliances for the protection of helidecks and helicopter landing areas, to the Fire Safety Systems Code (FSS Code). This change in the FSS Code was adopted by the IMO as resolution MSC.403(96) at the 96th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC96) held in May 2016. In addition, the IMO also adopted amendments to SOLAS and the MODU Code at MSC96 as resolutions MSC.404(96) and MSC.407(96) so as to make compliance with MSC.403(96) mandatory, and further approved circular MSC.1/Circ.1524 so as to require the same foam firefighting appliances for helicopter landing areas for ro-ro passenger ships.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with resolutions MSC.403(96), MSC.404(96), MSC.407(96) and MSC.1/Circ.1524. In addition, relevant requirements were amended to clarify ClassNK's application of the requirements in Chapter 17 of the FSS Code.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified the definitions of "helicopter landing area" as it pertains to the occasional or emergency landing of helicopters and "winching area" as it pertains to pick-up operations without landing.
- (2) Specified requirements related to the foam firefighting appliances intended for the protection of helidecks and helicopter landing areas.
- (3) Specified the permitted height of foam firefighting appliances.

Amended Requirements

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part P: 15.2.13
Part PS: 6.4.5, 7.6.1
Part R: 3.2.55, 3.2.56, 18.2.1, 18.5.1, Chapter 37(Added)
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part B: B2.1.4
Part R: R15.2.3, R37(Added)
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships
Annex 7-1 Table 7-1-A1