

Required Air Changes for Spaces Containing Bilge Pumps on Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R

Reason for Amendment

SOLAS II/19 stipulates additional safety measures for ships carrying dangerous goods. These regulations require that ventilation systems capable of at least six air changes per hour be provided in enclosed cargo spaces as well as in enclosed spaces containing bilge pumps; the latter case, however, only applies to ships carrying flammable or toxic liquids.

In the case of ventilation systems in cargo spaces, the ventilation rate may be reduced to not less than two air changes per hour for certain classes of cargoes when said cargoes are carried in closed freight containers. In the case of ventilation systems in enclosed spaces containing bilge pumps, however, there is no such reduction as described above.

Since the ventilation requirements for both cargo spaces and enclosed spaces containing bilge pumps are respectively applied when installing bilge pumps in cargo holds, it is unclear whether a reduction of the ventilation rate can be applied. For this reason, IACS developed Unified Interpretation (UI) SC288 to clarify this matter.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with IACS UI SC288.

Outline of Amendment

Specified that reduced air change requirements for the ventilation systems applicable to cargo spaces are also applicable to enclosed spaces containing bilge pumps, but only when the bilge pump is located directly inside a container cargo space.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part R: R19.3.5