

Heat Resistance of Water Spray Systems Installed Above Fuel Oil Tanks

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part N

Reason for Amendment

A comprehensive amendment of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (the IGC Code) was adopted as Resolution MSC.370(93) at the 93rd Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC93) in May 2014. This amendment has already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

According to Chapter 11 of the IGC Code, a “cargo area” includes any weather deck areas above cofferdams, ballast or void spaces at the after ends of the aftermost hold spaces or at the forward ends of the forwardmost hold spaces for fire-fighting purposes.

In actual practice, fuel oil tanks are sometimes arranged in place of the aforementioned cofferdams, etc. In such cases, however, it is unclear whether the requirement that water-spray systems located on the weather deck areas above the cofferdams, etc. be designed to withstand 925°C is also applicable to them located above such fuel tanks. IACS, therefore, developed a draft unified interpretation (UI) to clarify this matter.

The draft UI was discussed at the 6th Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE6) held in March 2019, and the draft was accepted. The draft was then submitted for approval at the 101th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC101) held in June 2019 and subsequently approved as MSC.1/Circ.1617.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended based upon this MSC.1/Circ.1617.

Outline of Amendment

Clarified that even if fuel oil tanks are installed at the after end of the aftermost hold space or at the forward end of the forwardmost hold space, any weather deck areas above of such tanks are to be regarded as part of the “cargo area” and requirements requiring water-spray systems in the cargo area to be designed to withstand 925°C is to be applied to the components of them located above such tanks.

Amended Requirements

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Part N: N11.3.6