

Fire Pumps Used to Supply Water Spray Systems

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part N

Reason for Amendment

The International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (the IGC Code) was comprehensively revised by the IMO in 2014. In response, IACS developed Unified Interpretation GC22 (hereinafter referred to as the “UI”) to clarify the application of certain code requirements related to water spray systems; in particular, the UI clarified the meanings of “covered area”, “capacity of water spray pump” and “protection by the fire pump”. The UI was subsequently discussed by the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers at its 5th Session (CCC5) in September 2018, and the sub-committee approved the UI except for the parts of it related to “protection by the fire pump”.

More specifically, the part of the UI not approved by the sub-committee had to do with its interpretation of the meaning of “fire in one compartment”. The UI (i.e. IACS) interpreted this expression as meaning only those compartments where fire pumps supplying water spray systems are installed; the sub-committee, on the other hand, felt that the meaning should be interpreted as also including those compartments in which the power sources for said pumps were installed.

Taking into account the sub-committee’s concerns, IACS began revising the non-approved part of the UI. IACS further revised the UI by incorporating into it content related to the capacity of emergency fire pumps which had been separately approved by the sub-committee at CCC5. The revised UI was then submitted to the sub-committee for review at CCC6 in September 2019.

The sub-committee discussed the revised UI, and agreed to it in principle. The UI will be submitted to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee at its 102th Session (MSC102) and is expected to approve subsequently as a MSC circular.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended based upon this draft MSC circular schedule for future approval.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Clarified the terms in 11.3.4, Rules the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part N.
- (2) Clarified that the meaning of “pump capacity” in cases where emergency fire pumps are used for water spray systems.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part N: N11.3.4