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MSC.1/Circ.1527
6 June 2016

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF SOLAS CHAPTER II-2

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-sixth session (11 to 20 May 2016), with a view to providing more specific guidance on the conditions under which materials other than steel may be permitted for components mounted on engines, turbines and gearboxes; arrangements for fixed hydrocarbon gas detection systems in double-hull and double-bottom spaces of oil tankers; and non-combustible material as "steel or equivalent" for ventilation ducts, approved unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-2, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment, at its second session (23 to 27 March 2015), as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying SOLAS regulations II-2/4 and II-2/9 and to bring the unified interpretations to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF SOLAS CHAPTER II-2

SOLAS REGULATION II-2/4

Application of materials other than steel on engine, turbine and gearbox installations

Materials other than steel may be assessed in relation to the risk of fire associated with the component and its installation. The use of materials other than steel is considered acceptable for the following applications:

- .1 internal pipes which cannot cause any release of flammable fluid onto the machinery or into the machinery space in case of failure; or
- .2 components that are only subject to liquid spray on the inside when the machinery is running, such as machinery covers, rocker box covers, camshaft end covers, inspection plates and sump tanks. It is a condition that the pressure inside these components and all the elements contained therein is less than 0.18 N/mm² and that wet sumps have a volume not exceeding 100 litres; or
- .3 components attached to machinery which satisfy fire test criteria according to standard ISO 19921:2005/19922:2005 or other standards acceptable to the Administration, and which retain mechanical properties adequate for the intended installation.

SOLAS REGULATION II-2/4.5.7.3.1

Arrangements for fixed hydrocarbon gas detection systems in double-hull and double-bottom spaces of oil tankers

- 1 The term "cargo tanks" in the phrase "spaces adjacent to the cargo tanks" includes slop tanks except those arranged for the storage of oily water only.
- 2 The term "spaces" in the phrase "spaces under the bulkhead deck adjacent to cargo tanks" includes dry compartments such as ballast pump-rooms and bow thruster rooms and any tanks such as freshwater tanks, but excludes fuel oil tanks.
- 3 The term "adjacent" in the phrase "adjacent to the cargo tanks" includes ballast tanks, void spaces, other tanks or compartments located below the bulkhead deck located adjacent to cargo tanks and includes any spaces or tanks located below the bulkhead deck which form a cruciform (corner to corner) contact with the cargo tanks.

SOLAS REGULATION II-2/9.7.1.1

Non-combustible material as "steel or equivalent" for ventilation ducts

With respect to SOLAS regulation II-2/9.7.1.1, a ventilation duct made of material other than steel may be considered equivalent to a ventilation duct made of steel, provided the material is non-combustible and has passed a standard fire test in accordance with annex 1 to part 3 of the 2010 FTP Code as a non-load bearing structure for 30 minutes, following the requirements for testing "B" class divisions.