

MSC Guidelines for Openings in Watertight Divisions on High-Speed Craft Code Vessels

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Reference	<input type="checkbox"/> IMO HSC Code, 2008 Edition Cite: Chapter 2.2.2
Contact Information	<p>If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center by e-mail or phone. Please refer to Procedure Number: SOLAS-08.</p> <p>E-Mail: msc@uscg.mil Phone: (202) 475-3401</p>
Reference Text	“Openings in watertight divisions.”
Guidance	The requirements in Chapter 2.2.2 should be applied to all openings in watertight divisions. Where subsequent text refers to watertight doors (but not specifically doors in watertight bulkheads), these regulations should be applied to deck openings (hatches) as well. This specifically refers to Regulations 2.2.2.4, 2.2.2.5, and 2.2.2.6.
Background	The IMO provides regulations referring to doors, but do not address deck hatch requirements. As the title of the regulatory section is the broader “openings in watertight divisions,” these regulations are applied, as applicable, to deck openings as well.
Disclaimer	This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard’s current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative, you may contact The Marine Safety Center, who is responsible for implementing this guidance.
