

MSC Guidelines for Review of Retractable Roofs (Magrodomes)

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Randy J. Jenkins

R. J. JENKINS, LCDR, Chief, Major Vessel Branch

References

- ❑ SOLAS 2004 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2(5)
- ❑ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/26.2.2(5)

Contact Information

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-28**.

E-Mail: msc@uscg.mil
Phone: (202) 475-3401

Reference Text

“Open deck spaces and enclosed promenades clear of lifeboat and life raft embarkation and lowering stations. To be considered in this category, enclosed promenades shall have no significant fire risk, meaning that furnishings shall be restricted to deck furniture. In addition, such spaces shall be naturally ventilated by permanent openings.”... “Air spaces (the space outside superstructures and deckhouses).”

Guidance

An area beneath a retractable roof should be categorized and protected as an enclosed space, commensurate with its size and use. These spaces are typically considered cat. 8 or cat. 9 depending on furnishings. Category 8 definition is greatly preferred as practice has shown that it is difficult to restrict the furnishings in such spaces. Under no circumstances will a Magrodome covered space be considered a cat. 5. In general, detection and suppression is required under all areas of permanent overhang (including stages and garages for the roof). Additionally, sprinkler coverage or equivalent arrangements should be provided for areas directly beneath the sliding roof.

Background

SOLAS does not address the categorization of a space that has a retractable roof. While in general the space is typical of an open deck, when the roof is closed, the area becomes an enclosed space and therefore the most conservative category assignment applies.

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.