

# MSC Guidelines for Review of Public Bathrooms in Stairs

Procedure Number: SOLAS-38

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References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ SOLAS 2004 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2(9)</li><li>❑ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/26.2.2(11)</li></ul>
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: <b>SOLAS-38</b>.</p> <p>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:msc@uscg.mil">msc@uscg.mil</a> Phone: (202) 475-3401</p>
Reference Text	<p>“(9) Sanitary and other similar spaces - Communal sanitary facilities, showers, baths, water closets, etc. Private sanitary facilities shall be considered a portion of the space in which they are located.”</p>
Guidance	<p>Public bathrooms in stairs that are provided with reduced (B-class) boundaries between the bathroom and stair should be protected with automatic sprinklers if the continuous B-class boundary is broken by removal of the door. See Drawing below.</p>
Background	<p>SOLAS permits a reduction in SFP boundary (from A-0 to B-15) between a stair and public bathroom if the bathroom is enclosed entirely within the boundary of the stair. In this case, the bathroom will generally not be fitted with automatic sprinklers. However, some bathrooms have removed the B-15 door and installed a barrier screen, thereby breaching the continuous B-15 boundary. In these cases, additional protection should be provided.</p>
Disclaimer	<p>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.</p>

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