MSC Guidelines for Review of Space Categorization

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- SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2
- SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/26.2

Contact Information

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Reference Text

"..Smaller, enclosed rooms within a space that have less than 30% communicating openings to that space are considered separate spaces. The fire integrity of the boundary bulkheads and decks of such smaller rooms shall be prescribed in tables 9.1 and 9.2."

Guidance

The Coast Guard expects a space's outfitting and fire load to be commensurate with the space category and intended use. Coast Guard inspectors will apply the most conservative space categorization determination when evaluating a space's use. This determination will be based on outfitting, usage, and accessibility.

Background

The Coast Guard experiences many spaces that, although designed to the standard of a particular space type, will (by its orientation with adjacent spaces, or outfitting) likely be used for other purposes. For instance, some category 10 electrical lockers are outfitted with shelving, etc that makes them viable storage lockers (cat 7 or 13).

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.