

MSC Guidelines for Review of Integrity of Multiple Deck Spaces

Procedure Number: SOLAS-46

Revision Date: 4/20/2012

W. R. ARGUIN JR., CDR, Chief, Hull Division

References

- ❑ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2(8)
 - ❑ SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/26.2.2(8)
-

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-46**.

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

Reference Text

“Accommodation spaces of greater fire risk.” “Public spaces containing furniture and furnishings of other than restricted fire risk and having a deck area of 50m² or more. Barber shops and beauty parlors. Saunas.”

Guidance

For spaces spanning multiple decks, deck and bulkhead integrity should be maintained at each deck level. Thus, the more restrictive of the bulkhead and deck integrity tables should be used to determine the bulkhead rating for all vertical boundaries above the first level of the multiple deck space.

Background

SOLAS is unclear as to what table to apply when determining boundary requirements for atriums, theaters, or other multiple deck public spaces where no continuous deck boundary is maintained at each deck level.

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.
