MSC/Circ.728
4 June 1996

Ref.T4/4.03

REVISED TEST METHOD FOR EQUIVALENT WATER-BASED FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS FOR MACHINERY SPACES OF CATEGORY A AND CARGO PUMP-ROOMS CONTAINED IN MSC/CIRC.668

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fourth session (5 to 9 December 1994), recognizing the urgent necessity of providing guidelines for alternative arrangements for halon fire-extinguishing systems, approved guidelines for the approval of equivalent water-based fire-extinguishing systems as referred to in SOLAS 74 for machinery spaces and cargo pump-rooms as MSC/Circ.668.

2 The Sub-Committee on Fire Protection, at its fortieth session (17 to 21 July 1995), reviewed the interim test method for equivalent water-based fire-extinguishing systems contained in MSC/Circ.668, and prepared amendments to the interim test method.

3 The Committee, at its sixty-sixth session (28 May to 6 June 1996), approved the amendments prepared by the FP Sub-Committee as contained in the annex.

4 Member Governments are invited to apply the guidelines contained in MSC/Circ.668 as amended by this circular.

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ANNEX

AMENDMENTS TO THE TEST METHOD FOR EQUIVALENT WATER-BASED FIRE-EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS FOR MACHINERY SPACES OF CATEGORY A AND CARGO PUMP-ROOMS CONTAINED IN MSC/CIRC.668, ANNEX, APPENDIX B

1 In the third paragraph of "Scope", at the end of the first sentence after "ceiling mounted nozzles" insert the phrase "for class 1 and class 2 engine-rooms and multiple level nozzles for class 3 engine-rooms, that may be utilized in conjunction with a separate bilge area protection system".

2 Replace the text of paragraph 4.2.2.2 by the following text:

"4.2.2.2 Class 2 - Engine-room.

The tests should be performed in a room having a specified area greater than 100 m^2, specified height of from 5 to 7.5 m and ventilation through a 2 m x 2 m door opening, up to a total volume for the room of 3,000 m^3. Fires and engine mock-up should be according to tables 2 and 3 and figure 1.

4.2.2.3 Class 3 - Engine-room

The test should be performed in a fire test hall with a minimum floor area of 300 m^2, and a ceiling height in excess of 10 m and without any restrictions in air supply for the test fires. Fires and engine mock-up should be according to tables 2 and 3 and figure 1."

3 Replace the second sentence of paragraph 4.3 by the following:

"For class 3 engine-rooms, the maximum vertical distance between levels of nozzles should be limited to 7.5 m and the lowest level of nozzles should be at a minimum height of 5 m above the floor."

4 Replace "30 mm oil" in paragraph 4.4.1, by "50 mm fuel".

5 Amend Table 2 as follows:

Test No.9, tray size should be changed from "0.1 $m^{2"}$ to "0.5 $m^{2"}$.

Below the table replace the word "note" by "notes".

Denote existing note as "1" and add a new note "2" with the following text:

"2 Tests 4, 7, 8 and 13 are not required for bilges with a separate fire protection system and are not applicable to bilges with a depth of more than 0.75 m (see section 4.3)."

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