

MSC Guidelines for Review of Retractable roofs (Magrodomes)

Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-28

Effective Date

11/15/02

Regulations

□ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2(5)

□ SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/26.2.2(5)

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**Contact
Information**

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Regulation 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.
