

# MSC Guidelines for Review of MVZ length

## Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-35

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<b>Effective Date</b>	11/15/2002
<b>Regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.1.2</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/24.2</li></ul>
<b>Disclaimer</b>	<p>These guidelines were developed by the Marine Safety Center staff as an aid in the preparation and review of vessel plans and submissions. They were developed to supplement existing guidance. They are not intended to substitute or replace laws, regulations, or other official policy by the Coast Guard or the International Maritime Organization. The responsibility to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations still rests with the plan submitter. The Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Transportation expressly disclaim liability resulting from the use of this document.</p>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<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 the Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-35.</p> <p>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:Customerservicemsc@uscg.msc.mil">Customerservicemsc@uscg.msc.mil</a> Phone: (202) 366-6480</p>
<b>Regulation Text</b>	<p>"...The length and width of main vertical zones may be extended to a maximum of 48m in order to bring the ends of main vertical zones to coincide with watertight subdivision bulkheads or in order to accommodate a large public space..."</p>
<b>Guidance</b>	<p>If a stairway serves two MVZ's, the maximum length of one MVZ should be measured from the far side of the MVZ stairway enclosure. In this case, all boundaries of the stairway enclosure should be insulated as MVZ bulkheads and access doors leading into the stairway should be provided from the zones. However, the stairway should not be included in calculating the size of the MVZ if it is treated as its own MVZ. The boundaries of stairways serving two MVZ's should be treated as MVZ boundaries for purposes of ventilation penetrations. (See Drawing 3)</p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>SOLAS requires that MVZ's not exceed "in general" 40m. An interpretation is needed to clarify the methods allowed in measuring the length of an MVZ in the case of a stair tower belonging to two MVZ's.</p>