

MSC Guidelines for Review of 30% open requirement for common spaces

Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-44

Effective Date	11/15/2002
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2❑ SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/26.2
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Contact Information	<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-44.</p> <p>E-Mail: Customerservicemsc@uscg.msc.mil Phone: (202) 366-6480</p>
Regulation Text	<p>"...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..."</p>
Guidance	<p>With respect to the 30% open determination for common spaces, the Coast Guard expects that windows, louvers, and ceiling area will not be considered as contributing to the 30% open requirement.</p>
Background	<p>We frequently come across multiple spaces that are considered common to one another. While SOLAS is clear that the boundary between these areas should be at least 30% open to be considered common, it is unclear on what methods are acceptable to achieve the level of openness (communicating openings).</p>