

# MSC Guidelines for Review of Space categorization

## Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-45

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<b>Effective Date</b>	11/15/02
<b>Regulations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/26.2</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-45.</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>"..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>
<b>Guidance</b>	<p>The Coast Guard expects a space's outfitting and fire load to be commensurate with the space category and intended use. Coast Guard inspectors will apply the most conservative space categorization determination when evaluating a space's use. This determination will be based on outfitting, usage, and accessibility.</p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Coast Guard experiences many spaces that, although designed to the standard of a particular space type, will (by its orientation with adjacent spaces, or outfitting) likely be used for other purposes. For instance, some category 10 electrical lockers are outfitted with shelving, etc that makes them viable storage lockers (cat 7 or 13).</p>