

MSC Guidelines for Review of Fire Control Plans

Procedure Number: H2-26

Revision Date: 05/05/00

References

- a. IMO Resolution A.654(16), "Graphical Symbols for Fire Control Plans"
 - b. SOLAS Consolidated Edition, 1997; Consolidated Text of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, and its Protocol of 1978: articles, annexes and certificates
 - c. IMO Resolution A.756(18), "Guidelines on the Information to be Provided with Fire Control Plans & Booklets"
-

Disclaimer

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 Coast Guard policy guidance. 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.

Contact Information

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 Procedure Number: H2-26

E-mail: customerservicemsc@msc.uscg.mil
Phone: 202-366-6480.

General Review Guidance

Ensure three copies of the plans are provided.

If the plan was previously reviewed/approved by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), then it need not be submitted to the MSC for review (domestic vessels).

If the vessel will carry SOLAS certificates, then fire control plans must comply with SOLAS Regulation II-2/20.

For U.S. vessels, ensure the IMO Fire Control Plan symbols of reference (a) are used in accordance with applicable regulations (Sub H: 46 CFR 78.45, Sub I: 46 CFR 97.36).

MSC Guidelines for Review of Fire Control Plans

Procedure Number: H2-26

Revision Date: 05/05/00

The Fire Control Plans for small passenger vessels should also use the IMO symbols, however, unless they are certificated for international voyages it is not mandatory.

Ensure the plan is legible & understandable to the crew. The plan need not show every single fire detector and/or every single sprinkler head. One symbol can be used for a section or group of spaces.

Ensure the Fire Control Plan shows "A" Class bulkheads, fixed extinguishing systems, automatic sprinklers and fire detection in accordance with the appropriate regulations (SOLAS or CFR).

Ensure all bulkheads/decks comply with the fire integrity tables or the applicable requirements depending on the vessel type (Sub H: 46 CFR 72.05-10, Sub I: 46 CFR 92.07, Sub K: 46 CFR 116.415, Sub T: 46 CFR 190.07).

Ensure the presence of two means of escape from each Main Vertical Zone on each deck on passenger vessels. For non-passenger vessels ensure the means of escape from each general area complies with the applicable regulations.

Ensure the Means of Escape (MoE) from all spaces comply with the applicable regulations: SOLAS passenger vessels: Regulation II-2/28; SOLAS Cargo Ships: II-2/45; Sub H: 46 CFR 72.10; Sub I: 46 CFR 92.10; Sub K: 46 CFR Subpart E; Sub R: 46 CFR 167.20-10 or 169.313; Sub T: 46 CFR 177.500; Sub U: 46 CFR 190.10.

- ❑ Two means from all spaces desirable, a corridor (type 3) is normally accepted as two means from most smaller spaces if it leads to exits in both directions.
- ❑ Large spaces may need second or third means depending on the size.
- ❑ Below the bulkhead deck each watertight compartment should be provided with a continuous enclosed means of escape, protected as type 2 all the way to the embarkation deck.
- ❑ Above the bulkhead deck one stairway (properly sized) per MVZ should be present. The stairway should be "readily accessible." Therefore, if the stairway is in another zone it must be entered directly from the zone of escape (not via corridors or other spaces in the adjacent zone). (passenger vessels)

MSC Guidelines for Review of Fire Control Plans

Procedure Number: H2-26

Revision Date: 05/05/00

Additional Guidance for Passenger Vessels

Ensure the length and area of each Main Vertical Zone (MVZ) on each deck complies with MVZ regulations (Regulations II-2/3.9 & II-2/24 passenger vessels only).

Check for direct access to stairways and for spaces within the stairway. Ensure compliance with Regulation II-2/29 (SOLAS passenger vessels), 46 CFR 72.05-20(f) (Sub H) or 46 CFR 116.438(m)(3) (Sub K).

Ensure the following is shown for the ventilation system:

- Indication of fan control positions including remote controls.
- Indication of fire damper positions.
- Identification of fans serving each section.

Ensure fire alarm pull stations are properly indicated.

Ensure fire extinguishing appliances such as fire extinguishers are properly indicated.