



# *USCG*

## *MARINE SAFETY CENTER*

### *BULLETIN*

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#### Status of SOLAS Plan Review for Implementation of the Retroactive Fire Safety Amendments

BULLETIN #03-97

The bulletin reiterates the need for expeditious submission of the plans necessary for verification of compliance with the 1994 retroactive fire safety amendments (RFSAs). The major focus of the U. S. Coast Guard relative to the RFSAs is to ensure full compliance with international regulations regarding separation of escape stairways from enclosed spaces where fires are likely to originate. Compliance for all existing ships is required no later than October 1, 1997. In accordance with the Coast Guard's Navigation and Inspection Circular (NVIC) 95, "Fire Safety Standards for Foreign Passenger Vessels Constructed before 1 October 1994", to meet this deadline, plans showing all details of compliance were to be submitted to the USCG no later than April 1, 1997.

To date, 60 foreign vessels have submitted the necessary plans to begin the plan review process. Of these ships, 4 are considered to have completed plan review. Another 19 of these ships are between 70 and 85% finished with the necessary RFSAs plan review. The remaining 37 ships are in varying stages of completing plan review. Based on security plan filings and inspection reports, the Marine Safety Center is tracking a list of 127 foreign flag ships that will likely require RFSAs plan review at MSC prior to October 1, 1997. *This means that 67 ships, or 53%, have not yet submitted the necessary plans for RFSAs plan review.* Nine of the 67 ships have contacted MSC to explain the delay in submission of the necessary plans. There has been no contact from the owners of the remaining ships.

Those ships whose plans were not received by the April 1, 1997 deadline specified in NVIC 4-95, are **not** guaranteed completed plan review by October 1, 1997. The MSC will make every effort to complete plan review in the most expeditious manner possible. It is recommended that the owner of any ship not already in touch with the MSC contact this office as soon as possible with the status of the required plan submission for the RFSAs control verification. **Those ships that have not completed the full RFSAs control verification process by October 1, 1997, will not be allowed to board U.S. passengers from U.S. ports until the RFSAs control verification process is completed**

M. M. ROSECRANS  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commanding Officer