

SC Release Operation of the CO₂ System

132

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(Rev.1 July 2004)
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(Rev.3 May 2010)
(Corr.1 Sept 2010)
(Corr.2 Dec 2011)

FSS Code, Ch 5, 2.1.3.2

2.1.3.2 Means shall be provided for automatically giving audible and visual warning of the release of fire-extinguishing medium into any ro-ro spaces and other spaces in which personnel normally work or to which they have access. The audible alarms shall be located so as to be audible throughout the protected space with all machinery operating, and the alarms should be distinguished from other audible alarms by adjustment of sound pressure or sound patterns. The pre-discharge alarm shall be automatically activated (e.g. by opening of the release cabinet door). The alarm shall operate for the length of time needed to evacuate the space, but in no case less than 20 s before the medium is released. Conventional cargo spaces and small spaces (such as compressor rooms, paint lockers, etc.) with only a local release need not be provided with such an alarm.

MSC/Circ.1120 – Interpretation of FSS Code, Ch 5, 2.1.3.2

Certain spaces for which the automatic warning of release of the extinguishing medium is required

Ordinary cargo holds need not comply with regulation 2.1.3.2. However, ro-ro cargo spaces, holds in container ships equipped for integrated reefer containers and other spaces where personnel can be expected to enter and where the access is therefore facilitated by doors or manway hatches should comply with the above regulation.

FSS Code, Ch 5, 2.2.2

Carbon dioxide systems shall comply with the following requirements:

- .1 two separate controls shall be provided for releasing carbon dioxide into a protected space and to ensure the activation of the alarm. One control shall be used for opening the valve of the piping which conveys the gas into the protected space and a second control shall be used to discharge the gas from its storage containers. Positive means shall be provided so they can only be operated in that order; and*
- .2 the two controls shall be located inside a release box clearly identified for the particular space. If the box containing the controls is to be locked, a key to the box shall be in a break-glass-type enclosure conspicuously located adjacent to the box.*

Interpretation

The requirements of FSS Code, Ch 5, 2.2.2 apply to the spaces identified in Ch 5, 2.1.3.2 of FSS Code as interpreted by MSC/Circ.1120.

Note:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be applied by all Members and Associates on ships contracted for construction on or after 1 January 1999.
2. The “contracted for construction” date means the date on which the contract to build the vessel is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. For further details regarding the date of “contract for construction”, refer to IACS Procedural Requirement (PR) No. 29.
3. Rev.3 of this UI shall be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships contracted for construction on or after 1 July 2010.

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