

# SC 204 Storage of fire-extinguishing media forward the cargo holds

(Apr 2006)

(Corr.1

May 2022)

**Interpretation of SOLAS Chapter II-2 regulation 10.4.3 and paragraph 2.1.3.3, Chapter 5 of the IMO International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code), as amended by resolution MSC.206(81)**

**~~(SOLAS regulation II-2/10.4.3. and FSS Code paragraph 2.1.3.3, Chapter 5)~~  
SOLAS II-2/10.4.3 reads as follows**

*“When the fire-extinguishing medium is stored outside a protected space, it shall be stored in a room which is located behind the forward collision bulkhead, and is used for no other purposes. Any entrance to such a storage room shall preferably be from the open deck and shall be independent of the protected space. If the storage space is located below deck, it shall be located no more than one deck below the open deck and shall be directly accessible by a stairway or ladder from the open deck. Spaces which are located below deck or spaces where access from the open deck is not provided, shall be fitted with a mechanical ventilation system designed to take exhaust air from the bottom of the space and shall be sized to provide at least 6 air changes per hour. Access doors shall open outwards, and bulkheads and decks including doors and other means of closing any opening therein, which form the boundaries between such rooms and adjacent enclosed spaces shall be gastight. For the purpose of the application of tables 9.1 to 9.8, such storage rooms shall be treated as fire control stations.”*

**FSS Code, Chapter 5, paragraph 2.1.3.3 reads as follows**

*“The means of control of any fixed gas fire-extinguishing system shall be readily accessible, simple to operate and shall be grouped together in as few locations as possible at positions not likely to be cut off by a fire in a protected space. At each location there shall be clear instructions relating to the operation of the system having regard to the safety of personnel.”*

## Interpretation

Fire-extinguishing media protecting the cargo holds may be stored in a room located forward the cargo holds, but aft of the collision bulkhead, provided that both the local manual release mechanism and remote control(s) for the release of the media are fitted, and the latter is of robust construction or so protected as to remain operable in case of fire in the protected spaces. The remote controls shall be placed in the accommodation area in order to facilitate their ready accessibility by the crew. The capability to release different quantities of fire-extinguishing media into different cargo holds so protected shall be included in the remote release arrangement.

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Note:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies from 1 January 2007

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