

Approval Testing of Flame screens, etc.

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B

Guidance for the Approval and Type Approval of Materials and Equipment for Marine Use

Reason for Amendment

The IMO had been conducting discussions regarding the revision of the then-existing standards for the design, testing and locating of devices to prevent the passage of flame into cargo tanks in tankers. Finally, at the 64th Session of IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC64) held in 1994, revised standards were approved and circulated as MSC/Circ.677.

However, the media which were to be used during the flashback tests, etc. for such flame screens, etc. were not clearly specified in the aforementioned circular. Because of this, media (e.g., propane, etc.) which are more appropriate for the testing of less dangerous cargo was actually even being used for such flashback tests, etc. in cases where highly dangerous cargo was being transported.

As a result, a review of MSC/Circ. 677 was undertaken and an amended version was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1324 at the 86th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC86) held in May 2009. MSC.1/Circ.1324 specifies the media to be used for the flashback tests, etc. of cargoes being transported based upon the dangerousness of said cargoes.

Therefore, relevant requirements for the approval testing of flame screens, etc. were amended so that they are in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1324.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) To amend relevant requirements to specify that ethylene or hydrogen respectively are to be used as the media for the approval testing of the flame screens, etc. of ships which carry cargoes listed as IIB (including blank space) or IIC in column *i*" of the "Summary of minimum requirements" in Chapter 17 of the IBC Code.
- (2) To add requirements specifying that the flames screens, etc. of existing ships are to be verified to be suitable for the type of cargoes carried by the first scheduled dry-docking on or after 1 January 2013.