

Alarms used for Breathing Apparatuses of Fire-fighter's Outfits

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B and R

Reason for Amendment

As part of its examination of the technical standards related to ensuring the safety of persons who enter enclosed spaces, the IMO discussed specifying mandatory requirements related to compressed air breathing apparatuses of fire-fighter's outfits which would require said breathing apparatuses to be fitted with alarms to alert users when the volume of air remaining in their air cylinders has been reduced. The IMO also discussed whether to apply such requirements to existing ships. As a result, amendments to both SOLAS and Chapter 3 of the Fire Safety Systems Code (FSS Code) were adopted as Resolutions MSC.338(91) and MSC.339(91) at the 91st Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC91) held in November 2012.

The amended Chapter 3 of the FSS Code specifies that compressed air breathing apparatuses of fire-fighter's outfits are to be fitted with alarms which will alert user that the volume of the air remaining in their air cylinders has been reduced, moreover, Chapter 3 also designates that IEC60079 is to be referenced as the standard used for explosion-proof type electric safety lamps of fire-fighter's outfits.

The amended SOLAS Chapter II-2 specifies that requirements regarding the alarms specified in Chapter 3 of the FSS Code are also to be applied to existing ships.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.338(91) and MSC.339(91).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified that compressed air breathing apparatuses of fire-fighter's outfits are to be fitted with both an audible alarm and a visual or other device which will alert the user before the volume of the air in their air cylinders has been reduced to no less than 200 litres.
- (2) Specified that ships equipped with compressed air breathing apparatuses of fire-fighter's outfits which had been at the beginning stage of construction before 1 July 2014 are to be surveyed by the first survey on or after 1 July 2019 in order to verify that said breathing apparatuses are fitted with the alarms specified in the preceding (1).
- (3) Specified that IEC60079 is to be referenced as the standard for explosion-proof type electric safety lamps used on tankers and in hazardous areas.