

Interpretation of “Materials Equivalent to Steel used for Ventilation Ducts”

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships

Reason for Amendment

SOLAS regulation II-2/9.7.1.1 specifies that ventilation ducts are to be of steel or equivalent material. Such “equivalent material” is defined in SOLAS regulation II-2/3.43 as material which is non-combustible and has structural and integrity properties equivalent to steel by the standard fire test in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures (FTP) Code.

Even though the FTP Code does clearly specify criteria for both “A” and “B” class divisions, it does not, however, clearly specify the criteria for “equivalent materials.” Thus, in December 2013, IACS adopted IACS UI SC264 which specifies detailed criteria for materials equivalent to steel used for ventilation ducts.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon IACS UI SC264.

Outline of Amendment

Specified that a ventilation duct made of material other than steel may be considered equivalent to a ventilation duct made of steel, provided the material is non-combustible and has passed a standard fire test in accordance with Part 3 of Annex 1 to the FTP Code as non-load bearing structure for 30 minutes following the requirements for testing “B” class divisions.