Fire Resistance of Ventilation Ducts

Amended Rules and Guidance

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

Reason for Amendment

Requirements related to ventilation ducts and dampers specified in SOLAS regulation II-2/9.7 were reviewed by IMO in order to provide clarification and improve safety. As a result of this review, amendments to SOLAS were adopted as resolution MSC.365(93) at the 93rd Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC93) held in March 2014.

More specifically, related interpretations used to date were incorporated into SOLAS and other requirements were clarified. In addition, requirements for ventilation ducts related to improvement of fire resistance and means for inspection as well as requirements for fire dampers related to the function and installation location of operation devices were added.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.365(93).

Outline of Amendment

The main contents of this amendment are as follows:

(1) Specified that testing in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures Code is required for fire dampers located at the upper ends of exhaust ducts for galley ranges.
(2) Specified that ventilation ducts are to be provided with hatches located near fire dampers to facilitate inspection and cleaning.
(3) Specified functional requirements for damper operating devices needed to open and close fire dampers with certainty.
(4) Specified installation locations of the means for closing ventilation ducts serving machinery spaces of category A containing internal combustion machinery.
(5) Transferred requirements related to ventilation ducts currently specified in the “Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships, Part R” to the “Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships, Part R”.