

Warning Devices for Breathing Apparatuses of Firefighting Outfits

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

Chapter 3 of the FSS Code specifies that a breathing apparatus for a firefighting outfit is to be fitted with an audible alarm as well as a visual or other device to alert the user before the volume in the air cylinder falls below 200 litres. This is designed to ensure the safety of the user.

The IMO discussed whether clarification regarding the aforementioned “visual or other device” was needed because it was not clear if this meant having alarm functions, such as a flashing light, or meant having other functions, such as pressure indicator, which allows the user to verify the volume of air remaining in the cylinder.

As a result, a unified interpretation clarifying that pressure indicators are considered acceptable as visual devices was approved at the 94th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC94) held in November 2014 and circulated as MSC.1/Circ.1499.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.1/Circ.1499.

Outline of Amendment

Specified that a pressure indicator for the breathing apparatus of a firefighting outfit may be regarded as a “visual device”.