

Means of Escape from Machinery Spaces, etc.

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 II-2/13.4.2 requires two means of escape from machinery spaces, and one of them is to be a steel ladder located in a protected enclosure. With regard to the escape route from machinery spaces other than machinery space of category A, a single escape route may be accepted for spaces that are entered only occasionally, and for spaces where the maximum travel distance to the door is 5m or less. However, regarding the size of the protected enclosure and the measurement means of the maximum travel distance to the door, some requirements are vague.

SOLAS II-2/13.3.3.2 and 13.3.3.3 require the means of escape from the spaces above and below the lowest open deck (control stations, accommodation spaces and service spaces). However, “the lowest open deck” is not defined and the position of open decks is different depending on the ship type or the arrangement; therefore, it is not clear which open deck should be regarded as the lowest open deck.

IMO considered the clarification of the requirements for the means of escape from machinery spaces and accommodation spaces, etc. As a result of the discussions, the unified interpretation for the clarification of such requirements was approved at MSC95 held in June 2015 and circulated as MSC.1/Circ.1511.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with the MSC.1/Circ.1511.

Outline of Amendment

The main contents of this amendment are as follows:

- (1) Clarified the size of the protected enclosure.
- (2) Specified the inclination and width of inclined ladders and stairways in machinery spaces being part of escape routes in machinery spaces of category A.
- (3) Clarified the safe position outside the space from the lower part of the machinery space of category A.
- (4) Clarified the definition of the lowest open deck in relation to the means of escape from accommodation spaces, etc.