

Fire Integrity of Navigation Bridge Windows

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts GF and N
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Parts GF and N

Reason for Amendment

The International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) and the International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code) stipulate requirements related to the fire integrity of the boundaries of accommodation spaces, etc. facing cargo areas or low-flashpoint fuel tanks. Among these requirements, regulation 3.2.5 of the IGC Code stipulates that navigation bridge windows are to be constructed so as to not have a fire integrity of less than “A-0” class, while regulation 11.3.2 of the IGF Code stipulates that any boundaries above the underside of the decks of navigation bridges, including navigation bridge windows, are to have divisions with “A-0” class fire integrity. These requirements have already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

SOLAS, on the other hand, does not require “A-0” fire integrity for either navigation bridges or navigation bridge windows. The inconsistency between SOLAS and the two codes over fire integrity requirements was brought up for discussion by IACS at the 96th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC96) held in November 2015 and clarification was requested.

As a result of these discussions, the IMO agreed to align the requirements of the IGC Code and IGF Code with those in SOLAS, and amendments to both codes were respectively adopted as resolution MSC.411(97) at MSC97 held in November 2016 and resolution MSC.422(98) at MSC98 held in June 2017.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with resolutions MSC.411(97) and MSC.422(98).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified that the requirement of “A-0” fire integrity for any boundaries above the underside of decks of the navigation bridges of ships using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels may be waived in cases where an Administration decides to implement the amendments to the related regulations prior to their formal entry into force.
- (2) Specified that the requirement of “A-0” fire integrity for the navigation bridge windows of ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk may be waived in cases where an Administration decides to implement the amendments to the related regulations prior to their formal entry into force.

Amended Requirements

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part GF: 11.3.1
Part N: 3.2.5
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships

Part GF: GF11.3.1
Part N: N3.2.5