

Application of Safe Return to Port Guidelines to Existing Passenger Ships

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships

Reason for Amendment

In May 2012, the IMO adopted an amendment to Regulation II-1/8-1 of SOLAS as resolution MSC.325(90) at the 90th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC90); this amendment requires passenger ships to have onboard stability computers or shore-based support for the purpose of providing operational information to ship masters to help ensure a safe return to port after a flooding casualty. This requirement has already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

Although the original intent of this amendment was to require that it be only applicable to passenger ships at the beginning stage of construction on or after 1 January 2014, it was suggested at the 94th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC94) held in November 2014 that it also applies retroactively to existing passenger ships.

As a result, the IMO adopted amendments to Regulation II-1 of SOLAS as resolution MSC.436(99) at the 99th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC99) held in June 2018. These amendments require passenger ships at the beginning stage of construction before 1 January 2014 to comply with the regulation II-1/8-1.3 by their first renewal survey of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate on or after 1 January 2025. In addition, MSC.1/Circ.1589 was approved as a technical guideline for retroactively applying the requirement to such passenger ships. Furthermore, a revision of MSC.1/Circ.1532, which is the guideline on safe return to port of passenger ships which have been at the beginning stage of construction on or after 13 May 2016, was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1532/Rev.1 so as to eliminate inconsistencies with the SOLAS regulations amended by MSC.436(99).

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended in accordance with resolutions MSC.436(99), MSC.1/Circ.1589 and MSC.1/Circ.1532/Rev.1.

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Specified that passenger ships which had been at the beginning stage of construction before 1 January 2014 are to comply with 2.5.1(2), Part 4 of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships by the first intermediate survey on or after 1 January 2025.
- (2) Specified Annex 4-1 as the technical guideline for passenger ships which had been at the beginning stage of construction before 1 January 2014.
- (3) Specified Annex 4-3 as the guideline on safe return to port of passenger ships which are at the beginning stage of construction on or after 13 May 2016.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships Part 2 1.1.3, Part 4 2.5.1, Annex 4-1, Annex 4-2, Annex 4-3