

Onboard Discharge Tests of Dry Chemical Powder Fire-extinguishing Systems

Amended Guidance

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part N

Reason for Amendment

The requirement for the testing of fixed dry chemical powder fire-extinguishing systems is specified in Regulation 11.4.8 of the IGC Code (the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk). The requirement specifies that after installation of the system, a tightness test and functional test are required for remote and local release stations, and that the initial testing discharges sufficient amounts of dry chemical powder to permit verification that the system works properly. The IGC Code requirement has already been incorporated into the ClassNK Rules.

However, it was pointed out by IACS to the IMO that the meaning of “discharge of sufficient amounts of dry chemical powder” was unclear because no specific amount of discharge was specified in the requirement. The matter was subsequently discussed at the 6th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE6) held in March 2019. As a result, a draft IMO unified interpretation was agreed to at in SSE6. This unified interpretation clarified that the full discharge of the installed quantity of dry powder is not required, but that the discharge is to be from all monitors and hand hose lines using dry chemical powder installed on board the ship.

The draft MSC circular mentioned above was submitted to the 101th session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC101) held in June 2019 and approved as MSC.1/Circ.1617.

Accordingly, relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.1/Circ.1617.

Outline of Amendment

Clarified “sufficient amounts of dry chemical powder” in the onboard discharge testing of dry chemical powder fire-extinguishing systems.

Amended Requirements

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships
Part N: N11.4.8