
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 1012

**The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection:
Large Ships) Regulations 1998**

GENERAL

Requirements for ships constructed on or after 25th May 1980

43. In every ship where a fixed extinguishing system not required by these Regulations is provided, such a system shall be to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State.

Fire extinguishers

44.—(1) Non-portable foam, carbon dioxide and dry powder fire extinguishers provided in compliance with these Regulations shall be of approved types and designs and shall meet the requirements of Schedules 2, 3 and 4 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1665 respectively.

(2) Portable fire extinguishers provided in compliance with these Regulations shall be of approved types and designs and shall meet the requirements of Schedule 8 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1665.

(3) Fire extinguishers provided for use in any ship shall not contain any extinguishing medium which has not been approved by the Secretary of State.

(4) Every fire extinguisher provided in compliance with these Regulations shall be kept fully charged at all times.

(5) Spare charges shall be provided to the extent of at least 50 per cent of each type of fire extinguisher provided in compliance with these Regulations, except that for each fire extinguisher which cannot readily be recharged while the ship is at sea, an additional portable fire extinguisher of the same type, or its equivalent, shall be provided in lieu of a spare charge.

Fire buckets

45.—(1) Every fire bucket provided in compliance with these Regulations shall be painted red and shall be clearly and permanently marked with the word “FIRE”. Except in open ships, every such fire bucket shall be kept filled with sand or water.

(2) Except in open ships, fire buckets provided in compliance with these Regulations shall not be used for any purpose other than extinguishing a fire.

Firemen’s outfits

46.—(1) Every fireman’s outfit carried in compliance with these Regulations shall consist of—

(a) a breathing apparatus complying with the requirements specified in Schedule 5 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1665; and

(b) personal equipment comprising—

(i) a portable self-contained electric battery-operated safety lamp of an approved type capable of functioning efficiently for a period of at least three hours;

- (ii) a fireman's axe;
- (iii) protective clothing of material capable of protecting the skin from the heat radiating from the fire and from burns and scalding by steam; the outer surface shall be water resistant;
- (iv) boots and gloves of rubber or other electrically non-conducting material; and
- (v) a rigid helmet providing effective protection against impact.

(2) Firemen's outfits shall be stored in readily accessible positions which are not likely to be cut off in the event of fire and, except as provided for by regulation 12(2) where more than one such outfit is provided, they shall be stored in widely separated positions.

Means for stopping machinery, shutting off oil fuel suction pipes and closing of openings

47.—(1) In every ship there shall be provided—

- (a) means for stopping ventilating fans serving machinery, accommodation and cargo spaces;
- (b) means for closing all skylights, doorways, ventilators, annular spaces around funnels and other openings to such spaces; and
- (c) means to permit the release of smoke from machinery spaces.

Such means shall be capable of being operated from positions outside the said spaces and which would not be made inaccessible by a fire within such spaces.

(2) Machinery driving forced and induced draught fans, oil fuel transfer pumps, oil fuel unit pumps and other similar fuel pumps shall be fitted with remote controls situated outside the spaces in which such machinery or pumps are situated and which would not be made inaccessible by a fire within such spaces. The controls shall be capable of stopping such machinery, or pumps in the event of fire in such spaces. For machinery spaces in passenger ships constructed on or after 25th May 1980 carrying more than 36 passengers such controls together with the controls required in paragraph (1) shall be situated at one control position or grouped in as few positions as possible. For ships built on or after 1st September 1984, such controls shall have safe access from the open deck.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) every pipe connected to any oil fuel or lubricating oil storage, settling, or daily service tank, not being a double bottom tank, which if damaged would permit discharge of the contents so as to cause a fire hazard, shall be fitted with a valve or cock which shall be secured to the tank to which it is connected and which shall be capable of being closed from a readily accessible position outside the space in which the tank is situated, provided that in the case of any inlet pipe to such a tank, a non-return valve secured to the tank may be substituted. In the case of an oil fuel or lubricating oil deep tank situated in or adjacent to a shaft or pipe tunnel or similar space, a valve or valves (additional to the valve required to be fitted on the tank) may be fitted on the pipe line or lines outside the tunnel or tunnels or similar space to enable control to be exercised in the event of fire. Such a valve if fitted in the machinery space shall be operated from a position outside the space.

(4) The valve or cock required by paragraph (3) may be dispensed with in the case of a pipe connected to a lubricating oil tank fitted in a space other than a machinery space of Category A provided that the safety of the ship is not impaired.

Gaseous fuel for domestic purposes