

ClassNK PSC Bulletin

Date:	26 October 2020 25 November 2022 (Rev.)
No:	NK-PSC-22
Attachment	No / Yes : 1 page

Title:

Fire-fighter's outfits

Typical deficiency (outline of comment) by PSC:

- Headsets (hands-free type) not provided for two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus
- Protective clothing deteriorated (worn/holed/outer delamination, etc.)
- Fire-fighter's outfits not suitable for entry into spaces on fire

Port State Country: All countries Port: All ports

Action taken by PSC: Detention / Rectify before Departure / Other

Description:

It has been frequently reported that PSC officers point out deficiencies related to fire-fighter's outfits.

a) Headsets (hands-free type) not provided for two-way radiotelephone apparatus:

According to SOLAS II-2/10.10.4, a minimum of two (2) two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus for each fire party for fire-fighter's communication are to be carried on board.

The radiotelephone apparatuses are required to be of an explosion-proof type or intrinsically safe.

There have been cases reported in which PSC Officers required headsets to be of a hands-free type because the fire-fighter on site could not properly communicate with using the radiotelephone apparatus during PSC inspection or the crew did not understand the proper operation of the radiotelephone apparatus.

Given the above situation, you are advised to ensure that fire-fighters can properly communicate with the radiotelephone apparatus during fire drill and to re-consider how to communicate with the fire party safely and effectively, when necessary.



Sample of hands-free type

b) Protective clothing deteriorated (worn/holed/outer delamination):

Repeated use of fire-fighter's outfits during fire drills can result in protective clothing possibly becoming gradually deteriorated (worn/holed/outer delamination, etc.).

For all ships in your fleet, you are advised to have the crew carry out periodical inspections of fire-fighter's outfits thoroughly and to take appropriate measures for deteriorated



Outer delamination

fire-fighter's outfits, such as renewal or replacement, in accordance with applicable manufacturer's recommendations.

In case fire-fighter's outfits used for training purpose are provided, they are to be marked such as "for training" and to be clearly distinguished from outfits prepared for actual use.

c) Fire-fighter's outfits not suitable for entry into spaces on fire:

There have been cases reported in which PSC officers have considered "fire-fighter's outfits to be unsuitable for use in a fire" and required replacing the outfits when fire drills including fire fighter's entry into spaces on fire was conducted.

The following are reasons for this deficiency:

1. Parts of skin, such as face, are unprotected and exposed;
2. The heat of the fire might be conducted inward through metal snap buttons, clips etc. which penetrate protective clothing;
3. Fire-fighter's outfits do not meet standards for firefighting at close proximity to a fire.



Parts of face unprotected



Exterior(Metal snap clip)



Interior (Metal exposed in side)

On the other hand, requirements related to such deficiencies are stipulated in the FSS Code, as follows:

- ✓ protective clothing of material is to protect the skin from the heat radiating from a fire and from burns and scalding by steam. The outer surface shall be water-resistant;
- ✓ boots are to be made of rubber or other electrically non-conducting material;
- ✓ helmets are to be rigid and provide effective protection against impact;

Fire-fighter's outfits that were pointed out with such deficiencies by PSC were type-approved based on the FSS Code by organizations under authorization of the flag Administration.

Given the above situation, kindly please confirm the specifications of the fire-fighter's outfits onboard and ensure that the outfits are used as per the specifications. If necessary, you are advised to reconsider fire drill scenarios and/or to consider replacing fire-fighter's outfits.

~~For your reference, the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator advises that the fire-fighter's outfits limitations should be included in the ship-specific training manual, and PSC Officers advise that European Norm EN469*, one of standards that includes performance requirements on heat transfer in fire-fighter's outfits, is considered suitable.**~~

~~*EN 469: Protective clothing for firefighters—Performance requirements for protective clothing for firefighting~~

** : Marine Safety Advisory (No.03-20) was cancelled by the Administration.