

Cleaning Holes for Incinerator Exhaust Gas Pipes

Amended Rules

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part D

Reason for Amendment

In the late 1980s, the use of cheaper low quality fuel oils for vessels was becoming quite pronounced. Such usage led to increases in the amount of sludge generated through normal engine operations which in turn led increases in the amount of soot accumulating in the exhaust gas pipes of incinerators used to treat said sludge. During this same period, a number of soot fire accidents were reported whose primary cause was later determined to be excessive soot accumulation in said pipes.

For this reason, relevant NK rules have been requiring since 1997 the provision of cleaning holes for incinerator exhaust gas pipes as well as the thorough maintenance of said pipes. The combination of the two is believed to be an effective way of preventing soot fire accidents caused by the accumulation of soot.

However with amendments made to MARPOL Annex VI, incinerators installed on ships since 2000 typically have a higher burning capability compared to that of older designs. This means that less soot is generated. Moreover, these newer incinerator types are commonly fitted with ventilating fans which are more than capable of preventing soot accumulation even in cases where cleaning holes are not provided.

Therefore, taking all of the above into account, relevant requirements have been amended accordingly to specify that requirements related to the provision of cleaning holes only apply to those parts which are expected to easily accumulate unburnt matter and cases where incinerator exhaust gas pipes are of a shape (e.g., u-shaped, etc.) which is susceptible to such accumulation.

Outline of Amendment

The requirements related to the provision of cleaning holes for incinerator exhaust gas pipes have been amended so that said requirements only apply to parts expected to easily accumulate unburnt matter and cases where incinerator exhaust gas pipes are of a shape (e.g., u-shaped, etc.) which is susceptible to such accumulation.