

Specification of Fixed Foam Fire-extinguishing Systems and Automatic Sprinklers

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part B and R
Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Passenger Ships

Reason for Amendment

Chapters 6 and 8 of the Fire Safety Systems Code (FSS Code) specify requirements related to fixed foam fire-extinguishing systems and automatic sprinklers, respectively. A review of these chapters was conducted by the IMO Sub-Committee on Fire Protection and amendments to the FSS Code were adopted as resolution MSC.327(90) at the 90th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC90) in May 2012.

The amendments made to Chapter 6 totally revised the requirements related to fixed high-expansion foam fire-extinguishing systems based upon MSC.1/Circ.1271, which had been approved in April 2008. In addition, new requirements related to the mixing of foam concentrates were also specified for fixed low-expansion foam fire-extinguishing systems.

The amendments made to Chapter 8 added new requirements related to control stations whose essential equipment was susceptible to water damage. These new requirements specified said control stations may be fitted with a system other than a wet pipe system.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.327(90).

Outline of Amendment

- (1) Amended all of the specifications for fixed high-expansion foam fire-extinguishing systems specified in Chapter 26 of Part R of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships.
- (2) Added requirements to Chapter 26, Part R of Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships which specify the following for fixed low-expansion foam fire-extinguishing systems:
 - foam concentrates of the same type from different manufacturers are not to be mixed unless they are approved for compatibility; and
 - different foam concentrate types are not to be mixed.
- (3) Added requirements to Chapter 28, Part R of Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships which specify that control stations, where water may cause damage to essential equipment, may be fitted with either a dry pipe system or a pre-action systems in lieu of a wet pipe system.