

Fire-fighting Systems for Ships Carrying Containers On or Above the Weather Deck

Amended Rules and Guidance

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

Reason for Amendment

From the viewpoint of improving fire safety through the quick prevention of the spread of fires originating in containers, the IMO discussed the possibility of requiring the installation of additional fire-fighting systems on ships, such as container ships and general cargo ships, etc., which are designed to carry containers on or above their weather decks.

As a result of this discussion, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC93) agreed at its 93rd Session held in May 2014 to amend SOLAS Chapter II-2 so as to require that such ships be provided with at least one mist lance for suppressing container fires. In addition, the amendment also further requires that ships designed to carry five or more tiers of containers on or above their weather deck be provided with mobile water monitors for fighting container fires. This amendment was adopted as IMO Resolution MSC.365(93).

Accordingly, all relevant requirements were amended based upon MSC.365(93).

Outline of Amendment

The main details of the amendment are as follows:

- (1) Specified that ships designed to carry containers on or above the weather deck are to be provided with at least one water mist lance.
- (2) Specified that ships designed to carry five or more tiers of containers on or above the weather deck are to be provided with mobile water monitors, the exact number of which is to be determined according to ship breadth, in addition to (1) above.
- (3) Specified that tests of mobile water monitors are to be carried out during classification surveys.