

Amendment on 25 December 2025  
Resolved by Technical Committee on 30 July 2025

## **Unified Interpretation for Means of Escape from Steering Gear Spaces and Machinery Spaces of Category A**

### **Object of Amendment**

Guidance for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships Part R

### **Reason for Amendment**

Regulation II-2/13.4.2.2 of SOLAS specifies “In a ship less than 1,000 gross tonnage, the means of escape from machinery spaces of category A can be exempted to one route considering the frequency of use” and “In the steering gear space, the means of escape can be exempted to one route when the emergency steering position is located and there is direct access to the open deck”. In addition, regulation II-2/13.4.2.3 of SOLAS specifies that the means of escape from machinery spaces other than category A can be exempted to one route when the maximum travel distance to the door is 5 *m* or less. The above-mentioned requirements have already been incorporated into the NK Rules.

IACS discussed the requirement for steering gear spaces in regulation II-2/13.4.2.2 because it was unclear whether it only applied to ships of less than 1,000 gross tonnage. IACS concluded that the requirement for steering gear spaces can be applied to all ships regardless of ship size. In addition, it also concluded that the requirement for machinery spaces other than category A can be applied regardless of ship size. These conclusions were adopted as IACS Unified Interpretation (UI) SC269(Rev.2).

Accordingly, relevant requirements are amended based on UI SC269(Rev.2).

### **Outline of Amendment**

Adds requirements clarifying that the dispensations allowed for steering gear spaces and machinery spaces of other than category A specified in 13.4.2 and 13.4.3, Part R of the Rules for the Survey and Construction of Steel Ships apply regardless of ship size.

### **Effective Date and Application**

This amendment applies to materials used for ships for which the date of contract for construction is on or after 1 January 2026.

ID:DX25-08

Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table  
(Unified Interpretation for Means of Escape from Steering Gear Spaces and Machinery Spaces of Category A)

Amended	Original	Remarks
<p><b>GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS</b></p> <p><b>Part R FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION AND EXTINCTION</b></p> <p><b>R13 MEANS OF ESCAPE</b></p> <p><b>R13.4 Means of Escape from Machinery Spaces</b></p> <p><b>R13.4.2 Dispensation from Two Means of Escape</b> (-1 to -5 are omitted.) <u>6 The sentence “In the steering gear space, a second means of escape is to be provided when the emergency steering position is located in that space unless there is direct access to the open deck” in 13.4.2, Part R of the Rules is to apply regardless of ship size.</u></p> <p><b>R13.4.3 Escape from Machinery Spaces other than those of Category A</b> (-1 to -3 are omitted.) <u>4 The requirement in 13.4.3, Part R of the Rules is to apply regardless of ship size.</u></p>	<p><b>GUIDANCE FOR THE SURVEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHIPS</b></p> <p><b>Part R FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION AND EXTINCTION</b></p> <p><b>R13 MEANS OF ESCAPE</b></p> <p><b>R13.4 Means of Escape from Machinery Spaces</b></p> <p><b>R13.4.2 Dispensation from Two Means of Escape</b> (-1 to -5 are omitted.) (Newly added)</p> <p><b>R13.4.3 Escape from Machinery Spaces other than those of Category A</b> (-1 to -3 are omitted.) (Newly added)</p>	<p>IACS UI SC269(Rev.2) Interpretation 3.</p> <p>IACS UI SC269(Rev.2) Interpretation 3.</p>

**Amended-Original Requirements Comparison Table**  
**(Unified Interpretation for Means of Escape from Steering Gear Spaces and Machinery Spaces of Category A)**

Amended	Original	Remarks
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION</b>		
<p>1. The effective date of the amendments is 1 January 2026.</p> <p>2. Notwithstanding the amendments, the current requirements apply to ships for which the date of contract for construction* is before the effective date.</p> <p>* “contract for construction” is defined in the latest version of IACS Procedural Requirement (PR) No.29.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IACS PR No.29 (Rev.0, July 2009)</p> <p>1. The date of “contract for construction” of a vessel is the date on which the contract to build the vessel is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. This date and the construction numbers (i.e. hull numbers) of all the vessels included in the contract are to be declared to the classification society by the party applying for the assignment of class to a newbuilding.</p> <p>2. The date of “contract for construction” of a series of vessels, including specified optional vessels for which the option is ultimately exercised, is the date on which the contract to build the series is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder.  For the purpose of this Procedural Requirement, vessels built under a single contract for construction are considered a “series of vessels” if they are built to the same approved plans for classification purposes. However, vessels within a series may have design alterations from the original design provided:</p> <p>(1) such alterations do not affect matters related to classification, or</p> <p>(2) If the alterations are subject to classification requirements, these alterations are to comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are contracted between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder or, in the absence of the alteration contract, comply with the classification requirements in effect on the date on which the alterations are submitted to the Society for approval.</p> <p>The optional vessels will be considered part of the same series of vessels if the option is exercised not later than 1 year after the contract to build the series was signed.</p> <p>3. If a contract for construction is later amended to include additional vessels or additional options, the date of “contract for construction” for such vessels is the date on which the amendment to the contract, is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. The amendment to the contract is to be considered as a “new contract” to which 1. and 2. above apply.</p> <p>4. If a contract for construction is amended to change the ship type, the date of “contract for construction” of this modified vessel, or vessels, is the date on which revised contract or new contract is signed between the Owner, or Owners, and the shipbuilder.</p> <p>Note:  This Procedural Requirement applies from 1 July 2009.</p>		