

Subject:

General Emergency Alarm Systems for
Ships Flying Other Flags than
Japanese Flag

NK TECHNICAL INFORMATION

No.: 147

Date: 14th September 1994

To Shipowners and Shipbuilders Concerned

Reference is made to NK TECHNICAL INFORMATION No.139 (20 June 1994) by which it is informed that the 1992 revision of the 1974 SOLAS will enter into force on 1 October 1994. Among the 1992 revision is the revised Regulation III/50 "General Emergency Alarm System" (hereinafter referred to as "the revised Regulation"). A copy of the text of the revised Regulation is attached hereto for reference. Specified below is the tentative guidelines for application of the revised Regulation adopted by the Society. It is sincerely requested that necessary arrangements/measures should be made/taken in line with them. The Surveyors of the Society will follow them when conducting a cargo ship safety equipment survey on the respective ships on and after 1 October 1994.

1. Application

The guidelines should apply to ships of other flags than the Japanese flag constructed on and after 1 October 1994 until further information is given. Guidelines for ships constructed on and after 1 July 1986 will be informed separately where necessary.

2. General Emergency Alarm System

A general emergency alarm system required under the revised Regulation should be capable of activating all emergency alarms on board by one action for triggering it and capable of operating continuously and automatically once it has been triggered until it is manually turned off or is temporarily interrupted by a message on the public address system.

(to be continued)

3. Alarm Sound Pressure Levels

There being no specific instructions from the flag governments by whom the Society is recognized, compliance with general emergency alarm sound pressure levels as specified in the footnote of the revised Regulation (IMO Assembly Resolution A.686(17)) is not regarded as a condition for the issue of Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificates.

For information, another draft Chapter III being considered at IMO includes the general emergency alarm sound pressure levels. Accordingly, compliance with the general emergency alarm sound pressure levels specified in the draft Chapter III if adopted would be a condition for the issue of Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificates upon entry into force of the revised Chapter III.

The End

Attachment

VOID

REVISED REGULATION III/50

(Those revised are underlined.)

"The general emergency alarm system shall be capable of sounding the general emergency alarm signal consisting of seven or more short blasts followed by one long blast on the ship's whistle or siren and additionally on an electrically operated bell or klaxon or other equivalent warning system, which shall be powered from the ship's main supply and the emergency source of electrical power required by regulation II-1/42 or II-1/43, as appropriate. The system shall be capable of operation from the navigating bridge and, except for the ship's whistle, also from other strategic points. The system shall be audible throughout all accommodation and normal crew working spaces and open decks, and its sound pressure level shall comply with the standard developed by the Organization*. The alarm shall continue to function after it has been triggered until it is manually turned off or is temporarily interrupted by a message on the public address system."

FOOTNOTE OF THE REVISED REGULATION III/50

* Reference is made to the Code on alarms and indicators adopted by the Organization by resolution A.686(17).

EXTRACT OF IMO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A.686(17)

"4.11 In general, audible alarm sound pressure levels at the sleeping positions in the cabins and one metre from the source should be at least 75 dB(A) and at least 10 dB(A) above ambient noise levels existing during normal equipment operation with the ship under way in moderate weather. The sound pressure level should be in the 1/3-octave band above the fundamental frequency. In no case should audible alarm levels in a space exceed 120 dB(A)."