

Subject :

Amendments to SOLAS Convention
issued in 1997

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

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To: All ship owners and builders

The 1995 amendments to the SOLAS Convention (Conference Resolution 1 of the Conference of Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, Adopted on 29 November 1995) as well as 1995 amendments to the MARPOL Convention (MEPC.65(37)) have been adopted and will come into force on 1 July 1997. A brief summary of the main content of these amendments is presented below for your information.

1. 1995 Revisions to the SOLAS Convention (Conference Resolution 1 as described above)

The SOLAS Convention has been amended with a primary aim of enhancing safety measures regarding ro-ro ships in light of such disasters as the tragic sinking of Ro-ro Passenger Ship the Estonia. Some of these amendments also apply to ships other than ro-ro passenger ships.

A brief summary of these regulations are outlined in the Attachment for your reference. Please contact NK "Passenger Ship Team" for further details.

2. 1995 Revisions to the MARPOL Convention (MEPC.65(37))

Regulation 9 has been newly introduced in Annex V of the MARPOL Convention setting forth requirements for the display of placards, development of management plans and the keeping of records concerning garbage and its disposal onboard ship. (The requirements become applicable to existing ships on 1 July 1998.)

Although these requirements will not be subject to inspection during periodical surveys, they will be the subject of inspection by boarding officials, such as Port State Control. A brief summary of each requirement is outlined in the Attachment for your reference. Please contact the Technical Services Division at the Head Office for further details.

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R Ro-ro passenger ships

P Passenger Ships other than ro-ro passenger vessels.

N Requirements for hull structures and equipment; applicable to new ships only (ships built on or after 1 July 1997).

E Structural and installation requirements for existing ships.

O Operational requirements (applies to new and existing ships).

Chapter II-1 Construction - Subdivision and Stability, Machinery and Electrical Appliances

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 8	Stability of passenger ships in damaged condition Ship stability shall always be determined by calculation.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 8-1	Stability of ro-ro passenger ships in damaged condition Changes to phase in period of applicability of stability requirements for existing ships (to conform completely with 1990 SOLAS).	☐			☐	
Reg. 8-2	Special requirements for ro-ro passenger ships carrying 400 persons or more Sets forth special requirements for stability of ro-ro passenger ships carrying 400 persons or more.	☐		☐	☐	
Reg. 10	Peak and machinery space bulkheads, shaft tunnels, etc., in passenger ships Collision bulkhead to be extended weathertight to next deck above bulkhead deck.	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reg. 15	Openings in watertight bulkheads in passenger ships Refers to closing of doors prior to commencement of voyage and noting such in log book, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 19	Construction and initial tests of watertight decks, trunks, etc., in passenger ships and cargo ships Strength requirements against water pressure and motion for ventilation trunks penetrating bulkhead.	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reg. 20	Watertight integrity of passenger ships above the margin line Requirements for placement of open end of air pipes terminating within a ship's superstructure.	☐	☐	☐		

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 20-2	Watertight integrity from the ro-ro deck (bulkhead deck) to spaces below Openings below the bulkhead deck are to be closed watertight to prevent ingress of water and fitted with alarms to the navigation bridge.	☐		☐	☐	
Reg. 20-3	Access to ro-ro deck Passengers not allowed access to enclosed ro-ro deck when ship is underway.	☐		☐	☐	☐
Reg. 20-4	Closure of bulkheads on the ro-ro deck Closure of transverse and longitudinal bulkheads on ro-ro deck (note: in case of movable type bulkheads are fitted).	☐		☐	☐	☐
Reg. 23-2	Integrity of the hull and superstructure, damage prevention and control Requirements for indicators for all shell doors, loading doors, and other closing appliances which could lead to flooding of special category or ro-ro spaces if not closed or secured properly.	☐		☐	☐	
Reg. 45	Precaution against shock, fire, and other hazards of electrical origin Cabling for emergency alarms and public address systems to be approved by Administration.	☐		☐		

Chapter II-2 Construction - Fire protection, Fire extinction

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 28-1	Escape routes on ro-ro passenger ships Requirements concerning provision of handholds in all corridors and escape routes, etc.	☐		☐	☐	
Reg. 37	Protection of special category spaces Discharge valves for scuppers which are closable from above the bulkhead deck and special category spaces are to be kept open while the ship is at sea. Further, operation of all such valves to be recorded in the log-book.	☐		☐	☐	☐

Chapter III Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 6	Communications Requirements for ship board public address systems.	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reg. 24-1	Requirements for ro-ro passenger ships Sets forth requirements for lifeboats, rescue boats, and boarding arrangements (marine evacuation system, automatically self-righting liferafts (or canopied reversible liferafts), fitting of fast rescue boats, stowage of lifejackets in vicinity of assembly stations, etc.).	☐		☐	☐	
Reg. 24-2	Information on passengers Concerns gathering and recording of passenger information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 24-3	Helicopter landing and pick-up areas All ro-ro passenger ships, both existing and new, to be provided with helicopter pick-up and landing areas, respectively.	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reg. 24-4	Decision-support system for masters of passenger ships Requirements for printed emergency plan(s) or computer-based decision-support system.	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Chapter IV Radiocommunications

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 1	Application No exemptions from requirements of Chapter IV of any sort permitted for any passenger ships.	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reg. 6	Radio installations Requirement for installation of distress panel at conning position of passenger ships.	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Reg. 7	Radio equipment: General Requirement for installation of SAR two-way on-scene radiocommunications using aeronautical VHF frequencies.	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 16	Radio personnel Qualified person to be assigned to perform only radiocommunication duties during distress situations.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Chapter V Safety of Navigation

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 10*	Distress messages: Obligations and procedures Describes procedures for handling of distress messages (provision of assistance and notification to search and rescue service, etc.).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 10-1*	Master's discretion for safe navigation Master is not to be constrained by shipowner, charter, etc. from taking any decision necessary for safe navigation of the ship while at sea.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 13	Manning Concerns determination of working language and translation of all posted plans and lists into working language.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 15	Search and rescue Passenger ships to have onboard plan approved by Administration for cooperation with SAR services in times of emergency.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reg. 23	Operational limitations Concerns preparation of list of all limitations on operations and following of such restrictions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Chapter VI Carriage of Cargoes

Reg. No.	Name of Regulation/Summary of Amendment	Applicability				
		R	P	N	E	O
Reg. 5	Stowage and securing Concerns requirement for all cargoes to be loaded, stowed, and secured in accordance with Cargo Securing Manual. Such securing to be completed before ship leaves the berth.	☐		☐	☐	☐

Amendment to Annex V of MARPOL 73/78 (MEPC.65(37))

Reg. 9 Placards, garbage management plans and garbage record-keeping

Provision for prevention of pollution due to garbage from ships has been amended (applies to all ships).

- All ships 12 meters or more in length are to display placards which notify crew and passengers of disposal requirements for garbage.
- All ships 400 tons gt or more and all ships certified to carry 15 persons or more are required to have a garbage management plan onboard (based on IMO guidelines).
- All ships 400 tons gt or more and all ships certified to carry 15 persons or more engaged in most international voyages as well as fixed and floating platforms are required to be provided with a garbage record book (subject to inspection by competent authority).