

Subject :

Exemption Certificates concerning
fixed fire-extinguishing systems for cargo spaces

NK TECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 264

Date : 15th June 1998

To shipowners and shipyards concerned

1. Among the amendments to SOLAS 74 adopted in 1996 and entering into force on coming 1 July is one to regulation II-2/53.1 regarding the subject matter. The texts of the regulation as amended are reproduced in Annex1 to this Technical Information.

2. By the regulation as amended, ships of 2,000 gross tonnage and upwards, and ships engaged in the carriage of dangerous goods on deck or in cargo spaces that are not fitted with a fixed fire-extinguishing system for cargo holds are required, irrespective of the date of construction of the ship concerned, to be issued with an Exemption Certificate to which the list of cargoes the ship is permitted to carry is attached effective from 1 July 1998. That is to say existing Exemption Certificates, to which such a list is not attached, should be replaced with such ones as mentioned above before that date.

3. The procedures for the issuance of such an Exemption Certificate to ships classed with ClassNK is given in Annex with information on the authorization granted to it by flag Administrations.

4. For ships flying the flag of a state the Administration of which has granted the authorization to it, ClassNK would like to invite the shipowners and shipbuilders concerned to apply for the issuance of such Exemption Certificates to its local office or Classification Department in the Head Office.

5. Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact Material and Equipment Department (TEL: 3-5226-2020, FAX: 3-5226-2019).

ClassNK NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI
4-7, KIOI-CHO, CHIYODA-KU,
TOKYO 102-8567, JAPAN.

TELEX: J22975 CLASSNK
2324280 CLASNKJ
CABLE: CLASSNK TOKYO

Annex 2

Procedures for Issuance of Exemption Certificate concerning fixed fire-extinguishing systems for cargo spaces

1. Authorization for issuance of Exemption Certificates

1.1 ClassNK has been authorized, without limitations, to issue Exemption Certificates referred to in SOLAS 74 regulation II-2/53.1.3 concerning the requirements for fire-extinguishing system for cargo spaces (hereinafter referred to as "new Exemption Certificates") by the Administrations of the following states:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Greece, Kiribati, Malaysia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Seychelles, Thailand, Tonga, Uruguay and Vietnam.

1.2 ClassNK has been authorized to issue interim, but not final, new Exemption Certificates by the Administration of Panama.

1.3 ClassNK has been authorized to issue both interim and final new Exemption Certificates only in the cases of renewal of those certificates issued for themselves by the Administrations of Denmark, Iceland and Singapore.

1.4 ClassNK has been informed that the Administrations of the following states would issue new Exemption Certificates for themselves:

Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Finland, Honduras, Hong Kong-China, India, Ireland, Japan, Liberia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Venezuela, Vanuatu and Yemen.

1.5 As for the states other than the above-mentioned, it has not been confirmed whether ClassNK may issue Exemption Certificates on behalf of the Administration. If issuance of a new Exemption Certificate to a ship flying the flag of either one of them is requested, ClassNK would contact the Administration for their instruction.

2. Application for issuance of new Exemption Certificates

For ClassNK's issuance of new Exemption Certificates, the shipowners or the shipbuilders should submit an application to its local office or to Classification Department in the head office together with the list of cargoes which are intended to be carried by the ship.

3. Issuance of new Exemption Certificates

ClassNK should, as far as the authorization is granted, issue a new Exemption Certificate with a LIST OF CARGOES THE SHIP IS PERMITTED TO CARRY being attached subject to the following.

Annex 1

SOLAS 74 regulation II-2/53.1 as amended in 1996

1 General

1.1 Except for cargo spaces covered in paragraph 2 and 3, cargo spaces of ships of 2,000 gross tonnage and upwards shall be protected by a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system complying with the provisions of regulation 5 or by a fire-extinguishing system which gives equivalent protection.

1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1.1, any cargo space in a ship engaged in the carriage of dangerous goods on deck or in cargo spaces shall be provided with a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system complying with the provisions of regulation 5 or with a fire-extinguishing system which gives equivalent protection.

1.3 The Administration may exempt from the requirements of paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 cargo spaces of any ship if constructed and solely intended for carriage of ore, coal, grain, unseasoned timber, non-combustible cargoes or cargoes which, in the opinion of the Administration, constitute a low fire risk. Such exemptions may be granted only if the ship is fitted with steel hatch covers and effective means of closing all ventilators and other openings leading to the cargo spaces. When such exemptions are granted, the Administration shall issue an Exemption Certificate, irrespective of the date of construction of the ship concerned, in accordance with regulation I/12(a)(vi), and shall ensure that the list of cargoes the ship is permitted to carry is attached to the Exemption Certificate.
