

Subject :

Portable fire extinguisher and maintenance of
CO₂ fixed fire extinguishing installations
on Bahamas flag ships

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. : 410

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To shipowners and shipbuilders concerned,

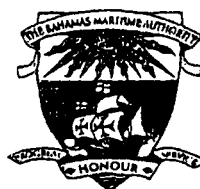
We are enclosing herewith instructions regarding the subject matter received from the government of Bahamas. Owners, builders, etc. of ships flying Bahamian flag are invited to take necessary actions for their compliance with the instructions from the government as it will be checked at Safety Equipment surveys.

Should you have any question on this matter, please contact Survey Department at TEL: 81-3-5226-2027, FAX: 81-3-5226-2029.

Encl.: Instructions No.4 and 6 from the Bahamas Maritime Authority

VOID

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Subject: Maintenance of CO ₂ Fixed Fire Extinguishing Installations		Regulation: SOLAS 1974, as amended Chap II-2, Reg 5
Number 4	Effective Date: 1 March 2001	Revision: New

Inspection and testing of CO₂ cylinders

1. A visual inspection of all CO₂ cylinders, forming part of the fixed fire extinguishing installation, is to be carried out annually by:
 - a) A representative of a specialist testing/maintenance firm, approved for such purposes by one of our authorised classification societies, or;
 - b) A suitably qualified member of the Company's shore-based personnel, e.g. superintendent engineer, or;
 - c) A suitably qualified member of the ship's personnel, e.g. Second Engineer,
2. Records of annual inspections, deficiencies identified and corrective actions performed are to be maintained on board.
3. Provided that annual visual inspections are carried out and recorded, all cylinders are to be hydraulically tested after twenty (20) years from the date of manufacture, and every five (5) years thereafter.
4. If annual visual inspections are not carried out, or there is no record of them, then all cylinders are to be hydraulically tested after ten (10) years and twenty (20) years from the date of manufacture and every five (5) years thereafter.
5. A record of the hydraulic pressure test should be legibly marked on the cylinders.
6. Any cylinder that has been discharged, or has a reduction in pressure of 10% or more from its original pressure as stamped on the cylinder, or shows signs of external corrosion, is to be hydraulically tested.

Maintenance of installations

7. In addition to the above requirements for CO₂ all valves, wires, levers/pulls, pipework, markings and operational instructions are to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.
8. Any aspects of the testing and maintenance of the system which is beyond the competence of the Company's and ship's personnel should be carried out by a competent specialist maintenance firm.
9. The Company should ensure that the inspection and maintenance of the whole system meets the requirements of the classification society and any recommendations of the installation supplier.
10. Where the fixed CO₂ installation is under maintenance and inoperable, suitable provision should be made for dealing with fires in the protected spaces.



Subject: Portable fire extinguishers: periodical examination and testing and carriage of spare charges		Regulation: SOLAS 1974 as amended Chapter II-2 Regulation 6.2, 6.5 and 6.7
Number 6	Effective Date: 20 April 2001	Revision: New

1. In determining the requirements for portable fire extinguishers, classification societies should be guided by the provisions of IMO Resolution A.602(15) and paragraph 6 of MSC Circular 847.

Carriage of spare charges

2. The number of spare charges required by regulation 6.2 for portable extinguishers should be in accordance with the provisions of MSC Circular 847, namely:
 - (a) 100% for the first 10 extinguishers; and
 - (b) 50% for the remaining extinguishers, subject to a maximum of 60.
3. Additional extinguishers of the same type and capacity should be carried in lieu of spare charges for any extinguishers which cannot be charged on board ship, as determined in paragraph 2.
4. Instructions for recharging extinguishers should be carried on board ship and refills should be of a type approved by the manufacturer of the extinguisher.

Examination and testing of portable fire extinguishers

5. The extinguishers should be examined annually by a competent person. The Master, Chief Mate, Chief Engineer or Second Engineer and similarly qualified and experienced persons are accepted by the Bahamas Maritime Authority as being competent to carry out these inspections.
6. The containers of permanently pressurised fire extinguishers, propellant bottles of non-pressurised extinguishers and other extinguishers should be hydraulically pressure tested at intervals of ten (10) years. Containers of non-pressurised extinguishers should also be tested at intervals of ten (10) years.

Number portable fire extinguishers

7. The number of portable fire extinguishers required by regulation 6.7 is the number required to satisfy classification society rules and in no case less than 5 for ships of 1000 gross tonnage and upwards.

Inspection and survey

8. If the loss of gas from a carbon dioxide extinguisher or propellant bottle of any other type of extinguisher exceeds by 10% of the original charge as stamped on the extinguisher or bottle, the extinguisher or bottle should be recharged. Any extinguisher or bottle which has excessive external corrosion should be replaced.
9. In surveying the safety equipment on a vessel, classification societies should verify that:
 - (a) the manufacturer's instructions for recharging extinguishers are on board;
 - (b) the extinguishers have been inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the foregoing requirements;
 - (c) records of inspections, maintenance and pressure tests are maintained; and
 - (d) spare charges are provided in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.

10. Classification societies should refer to the Bahamas Maritime Authority, with relevant recommendations, any Bahamian ship which does not satisfy any of the foregoing requirements prior to the issue of a Safety Equipment Certificate or Passenger Safety Certificate.

Void