

Subject:

Fiberglass (GRP) Hatch Cover

NK TECHNICAL INFORMATION

No. 52

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To Shipowners and Shipyards concerned

GRP hatch covers have been used widely to the tank hatches of the cargo oil tanks of NK-classed tankers.

In this connection, USCG, recently, has advised NK that the GRP hatch covers used on board any tankers calling at US ports, are requested to be made of steel or equivalent material with regard to the fire-protection.

Thus, any tankers, new or existing, will not be permitted to call at US ports with their GRP hatch covers to cargo oil tanks, unless the GRP material be so constructed as to be capable of preventing the passage of smoke and flame to the end one-hour standard fire test specified in Reg.3 Chap.II-2, SOLAS 81.

For your information, no NK-approved GRP materials are available now which are in compliance with the above-mentioned regulation.

Meanwhile, NK has requested to USCG, considering the number of tankers with fiberglass covers calling regularly in US ports, a reasonable time period to disseminate the information and replace covers, and received the reply from USCG that COTPs (captain of the ports) will require vessels fitted with fiberglass covers to make permanent repairs at the vessel's next drydock but not later than 1 January 1987.

Please pay much attention to the above.

