

Subject

Maintenance, inspection and test of Life Saving, Fire-Protection Systems and Appliances on board the Hong Kong-registered ships

ClassNK

Technical Information

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To whom it may concern

The Hong Kong Government has issued "Some Frequently Asked Technical Information / Requirements for Hong Kong Registered Cargo Ships", addresses technical issues involving maintenance, inspection and test of Life Saving, Fire-Protection System and Appliances on board the Hong Kong-registered ships.

This Technical Information provides with the information on Life Saving, Fire-Protection Systems and Appliances.

As necessary, please refer to the original text of the Guideline which is available on Hong Kong Government Internet Homepage (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk>).

This ClassNK Technical Information supersedes the previous ClassNK Technical Information No. TEC-0602 dated 30 September 2004.

1. Applicable due date

The due date for the requirements newly required by this information is as follows.

2(6), 5(1), 8, 9 : at first safety equipment survey on or after 1 January 2013

6 : at first scheduled dry-docking on or after 1 January 2013

2. Fire extinguishers

- (1) Fire extinguishers should be examined annually by a competent person, who in this case may be taken to be the ship's Chief Officer, Second Engineer or above.
- (2) Each extinguisher should be provided with a sign indicating that it has been examined.
- (3) Containers of permanently pressurized fire extinguishers and propellant bottles of non-pressurized fire extinguishers should be hydraulic pressure tested every 10 years. Container of non-permanently pressurized fire extinguishers should be also hydraulic pressure tested every 10 years.
- (4) Portable CO₂/Halon extinguishers should not be located in accommodation spaces.
- (5) Where portable gas fire extinguishers are provided in rooms at switchboards etc., the volume of any space containing one or more extinguishers are should be such as to limit the concentration of vapour that can occur due to discharge to not more than 5% of the net volume of space.

(To be continued)

NOTES:

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- (6) At least one portable fire extinguisher of each type manufactured in the same year and kept on board a ship should be test discharged at five yearly intervals (as part of a fire drill).
3. Air cylinders for self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
SCBA cylinders should be hydraulic pressure tested at intervals not exceeding 5 years and hydrostatic test date must be permanently marked on the bottles.
4. Air bottles for air supply in totally enclosed lifeboats
Air bottles in totally enclosed lifeboats should be internally and externally inspected and hydraulic pressure tested at intervals not exceeding 5 years and the hydrostatic test date must be permanently marked on the bottles.
5. Foam fire-extinguishing systems
- (1) Fixed foam extinguishing systems should be inspected every two years by a competent service station recognized by a Recognized Organization.
 - (2) Foam concentrates stored on board the first periodical control should be performed after a period of 3 years and after that, every year at authorized service agent or manufacturer's laboratory. A record of the age of the foam concentrates and of subsequent controls should be kept on board.
6. CO2 cylinders for fixed fire-fighting installation systems
Ships shall carry out maintenance and inspection of fixed carbon dioxide fire extinguishing systems in accordance with IMO MSC/Circ.1318.
At each intermediate, periodical or renewal survey in cargo ships, high pressure cylinders should be subjected to periodical tests at intervals not exceeding 10 years. At the 10-year inspection, at least 10% of the total number provided should be subjected to an internal inspection and hydrostatic test by a competent service station recognized by a Recognized Organization.
7. Halon cylinders for fixed fire-fighting installation systems
- (1) The first examination and hydraulic pressure testing of Halon cylinders after the initial manufacturing test should be carried out after a period of 10 years. This requirement however, can be relaxed to 20 years if one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - (i) Cylinders were serviced (with past records) by a competent service station recognized by a Recognised Organisation (RO); or
 - (ii) External examination of the cylinders and examination for loss of content were carried out by a competent person at intervals not greater than one year in the past 10 years. The external examination shall involve checking for mechanical damage and excessive corrosion, and the results shall be properly recorded. A competent person is taken as one of the senior officers/engineers on board:

(To be continued)

- (2) For ships without records to support that the cylinders were examined or serviced in accordance with (i) or (ii) of above paragraph (1), either one the following arrangements should be made:
 - (i) If the next dry docking is within the next 12 months, all cylinders are to be hydraulic pressure tested during the dry docking period; or
 - (ii) If the next dry docking is over 12 months but less than 18 months, hydraulic pressure testing of the cylinders will be considered on a case by case basis; or
 - (iii) If the next dry docking is beyond 18 months' time, 30% of the cylinders are to be hydraulic pressure tested as soon as possible. If the cylinders tested are found in good condition, hydraulic pressure testing for the remaining cylinders can be arranged during the dry docking period.
 - (3) The relaxation of hydraulic pressure testing to 20 years does not apply to any cylinder which had been discharged, showed a loss of pressure or weight (gas content remaining is less than 90% of the stated capacity) or was excessively corroded externally. It should note that no cylinder is allowed to stay beyond 20 years without being hydraulic pressure tested.
 - (4) Subsequent hydraulic pressure testing of the cylinders after 20 years would be at intervals of 5 years.
 - (5) Regardless of the above conditions, hydraulic pressure testing is required at 5 years intervals if a cylinder is discharged as refilled.
8. Medical Oxygen Cylinders
Hydrostatic pressure testing of cylinders shall be carried out by a competent service station recognized by a Recognized Organization at the intervals not exceeding 5 years and the hydrostatic test date must be permanently marked on the bottles.
9. Inspection of immersion suits / anti-exposure suits
To ensure the maintenance of adequate strength and watertightness of seams and closures of immersion suits and anti-exposure suits with age, each suit is subjected to an air pressure test at intervals not exceeding three years, or more frequently for suits over ten years of age.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

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