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Classification News

No. 12/2013 June 19, 2013

Statutory Alert: Revised IMO guidelines for maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and appliances – summary of requirements

Applicability: All shipowners and operators

Further to [Classification News 06/2013](#), we have created a summary table of the revised maintenance requirements for fire protection systems and appliances contained in the MSC Circulars 1318 and 1432 and IMO Resolution. A.951(23). This is attached to this Classification News or can be downloaded [here](#).

This document also contains tables summarising the SOLAS requirements for 'Servicing, Inspections & Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, Radio & Navigation Equipment' and 'On-board Training, Drills and Inspections of Fire Appliances & Life-Saving Appliances'.

What should owners and operators do now?

Owners and operators of new and existing ships should ensure maintenance, servicing and testing of safety equipment and on-board training, drills and inspections are carried out in accordance with the requirements summarised in the tables. If the vessel's flag administration has issued related instructions, these are to be taken into account.

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On-board Maintenance and Inspection of Fire Protection Systems and Appliances

Fire Protection System or Appliance	Intervals						
	Weekly	Monthly	3-Monthly	Annually	2-Yearly	5-Yearly	10-Yearly
Breathing Apparatus (MSC Circ. 1432)	X			X		X	
Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD) (MSC Circ. 1432)	X			X			
Fire Doors (MSC Circ. 1432)	X		X	X			
Fire mains, fire pumps, hydrants, hoses and nozzles (MSC Circ. 1432)		X	X	X			
Fire-Fighters' Outfits (MSC Circ. 1432)		X					
Fixed Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) Fire-Extinguishing Systems (MSC Circ. 1318)		X		X	X ¹	X	X
Other fixed Gas Fire-Extinguishing Systems (MSC Circ. 1432)	X	X		X	X	X	X
Fixed aerosol extinguishing systems		X		X			X
Fixed Dry Chemical Powder Fire-Extinguishing Systems (MSC Circ. 1432)		X		X	X		X
Fixed Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems (MSC Circ. 1432)	X	X		X			
Fixed Foam Fire-Extinguishing Systems (MSC Circ. 1432)		X	X	X		X	
Galley and deep fat cooking fire-extinguishing systems (MSC Circ. 1432)				X			
Low Location Lighting (LLL) Systems (MSC Circ. 1432)	X					X	
Portable Fire-Extinguishers (Res. A.951(23))				X		X	X
Portable Foam Applicators (MSC Circ. 1432)		X		X			
Public address and general alarm systems (MSC Circ. 1432)	X						
Ventilation systems and fire dampers (MSC Circ. 1432)			X	X			
Water mist, water spray and sprinkler systems (MSC Circ. 1432)	X	X		X		X	X
Wheeled (mobile) Fire-Extinguishers (MSC Circ. 1432)		X		X		X	X

KEY:

X Required

NOTES:

1 Intervals of 2 years in passenger ships or at each intermediate/periodical or renewal survey in cargo ships

Servicing, Inspections & Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, Radio & Navigation Equipment

Requirement	SOLAS Regulations	Service company	Crew	Under survey	Intervals				
					Weekly	Monthly	Annually	30 Months	5-Yearly
Accommodation Ladders, gangways, davits and winches	II-1/3-9, MSC Circ. 1331								
.1 Maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.	MSC Circ. 1331	X	X						
.2 Thorough examination	MSC Circ. 1331	X	X				X ²		
.3 Max. operational load test	MSC Circ. 1331	X	X						X ³
Passenger ship lightweight test	II-1/5.5 (II-1/22.3)			X					X
Servicing of inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, marine evacuation systems	III/20.8.1	X ⁴					X ⁵		
Servicing of inflatable liferafts (30 months)	III/20.8.3 & MSC Circ. 1328	X ⁴	X					X	
Servicing of hydrostatic release units (other than disposable hydrostatic release units)	III/20.9	X ⁴					X ⁵		
Launching appliances (davit and winch):	III/20.11.1 & MSC Circ. 1206								
Maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance.	III/20.11.1.1		X		X	X			
Thorough examination	III/20.11.1.2	X ¹					X ²		
Dynamic test of winch brake with load of empty boat, i.e. without persons on-board.	III/20.11.1.3	X ¹					X ²		
Dynamic test of winch brake with a proof load of 1.1 x weight of fully equipped and manned boat.	III/20.11.1.3	X ¹		X					X ³
Lifeboat on-load release gear:	III/20.11.2 & MSC Circ. 1206								
Maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance.	III/20.11.2.1		X		X	X			
Thorough examination and operational test with load of empty boat, i.e. without persons on-board	III/20.11.2.2	X ¹					X ²		
Operational test under 1.1 x total mass of lifeboat fully equipped and loaded	III/20.11.2.3	X ¹		X					X ³
Davit-launched liferaft automatic release hooks:	III/20.11.3 & MSC Circ. 1206								
Maintained in accordance with instructions for on-board maintenance.	III/20.11.3.1		X		X	X			
Thorough examination and operational test.	III/20.11.3.2	X ¹	X				X ²		
Operational test under 1.1 x total mass of liferaft fully equipped and loaded when release hook is overhauled.	III/20.11.3.3	X ¹		X					X ³
EPIRB testing	IV/15.9 & MSC Circ. 1040	X					X ²		
EPIRB maintenance	IV/15.9 & MSC Circ. 1040	X ⁴							X ²
VDR/S-VDR testing	V/18.8 & MSC Circ. 1222	X ¹					X ²		
AIS testing	V/18.9 & MSC Circ. 1252	X ⁴					X ²		

NOTES:

- 1 Conducted by manufacturer's representative or person trained and certified by the manufacturer. See MSC Circ. 1277.
- 2 Within survey window.
- 3 Preferably within survey window.
- 4 To be done at approved servicing station. For AIS – to be done by approved service surveyor.
- 5 At intervals not exceeding 12 months, the Flag may extend this period to 17 months. Flags may permit intervals to be extended to harmonise with survey windows (MSC/Circ.955).

On-board Training, Drills and Inspections of Fire Appliances & Life-Saving Appliances

Requirement	SOLAS Regulations	Service company	Crew	Ship's log	Intervals								
					Weekly	Monthly	3-Monthly	4-Monthly	6-Monthly	Annually	2-Yearly	5-Yearly	
Watertight door drills	II-1/21 (II-1/23)		X	X	X ²								
Abandon ship drill and fire drill - cargo ships	III/19.3		X	X		X							
Abandon ship drill and fire drill - passenger ships	III/19.3, III/30		X	X	X								
Abandon ship drill - lowering lifeboats	III/19.3.3.1, MSC/Circ. 1206		X	X	X ²	X ³							
Abandon ship drill - launching lifeboats & rescue boats	III/19.3.3.3 & .6, MSC/Circ. 1206		X	X		X ¹	X						
Abandon ship drill - free-fall lifeboat drill	III/19.3.3.4, MSC/Circ. 1206		X	X				X					
Abandon ship drill - launch (or simulated launch) free-fall lifeboats	III/19.3.3.4, MSC/Circ. 1206		X	X					X				
Abandon ship drill - MES drill	III/19.3.3.8		X	X	X ²	X ³							
Abandon ship drill - MES training	III/19.3.3.8		X	X							X		
Abandon ship drill - testing of emergency lighting	III/19.3.3.9		X	X	X ²	X ³							
LSA & fire on-board training	III/19.4.1 & .2		X	X	X ²	X ³							
Davit-launched liferaft training	III/19.4.3		X	X				X					
Launching appliances - inspect wire ropes	III/20.4, MSC/Circ. 1206	X	X							X			
Launching appliances - wire ropes renewed	III/20.4, MSC/Circ. 1206	X	X										X ⁴
Survival craft, rescue boats and launching appliances (visual inspection)	III/20.6.1, MSC/Circ. 1206		X	X	X								
Test run of lifeboat and rescue boat engines	III/20.6.2, MSC/Circ. 1206		X	X	X ⁵								
Davit launched lifeboats - Moved from stowed position	III/20.6.3		X	X	X ³								
Testing of public address and general alarm system	III/20.6.4		X	X	X								
Davit launched lifeboats - Turned out from stowed position	III/20.7.1		X			X							
Inspection of LSA including lifeboat equipment	III/20.7.2 & III/36.1		X			X							
Steering gear tests	V/26.1 & .2		X	X	X ⁶								
Emergency steering drill	V/26.4		X	X				X					

KEY:

X Required

NOTES:

1 Dedicated rescue boats launched monthly if possible

2 Passenger ships

3 Cargo ships

4 When necessary due to deterioration of the falls or at intervals of not more than 5

5 In special cases the Flag may waive this requirement for ships constructed before 1 July 1986

6 Within 12 hours before departure or weekly for ships which regularly engage on voyages of short duration