



MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA

DECEMBER 2004 AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS

Circular No. 06-07-05

Revision 00

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Reference

Bulk carrier safety

A new text for SOLAS chapter XII (*Additional safety measures for bulk carriers*) incorporates revisions to some regulations and new requirements relating to double-side skin bulk carriers.

The amendments include the addition of a new regulation 14 on restrictions from sailing with any hold empty and requirements for double-side skin construction as an optional alternative to single-side skin construction. The option of double-side skin construction will apply to new bulk carriers of 150m in length and over, carrying solid bulk cargoes having a density of 1,000 kg/m³ and above.

Free-fall lifeboats on bulk carriers

an amendment to regulation 31 in SOLAS chapter III (*Life-saving appliances and arrangements*) makes mandatory the carriage of free-fall lifeboats on bulk carriers.

Simplified Voyage Data Recorders


Amendments to regulation 20 of SOLAS chapter V (*Safety of Navigation*) give a phased-in carriage requirement for a shipborne simplified voyage data recorder (S-VDR).

The regulation requires a VDR, which may be an S-VDR, to be fitted on existing cargo ships of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards, phasing in the requirement for cargo ships of 20,000 gross tonnage and upwards first, to be followed by cargo ships of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards.

The S-VDR is not required to store the same level of detailed data as a standard VDR, but nonetheless should maintain a store, in a secure and retrievable form, of information concerning the position, movement, physical status, command and control of a vessel over the period leading up to and following an incident.

Other amendments:

- SOLAS chapter II-1 regulation 18 Construction and initial tests of watertight doors, sidescuttles, etc., in passenger ships and cargo ships to allow testing of watertight doors with a prototype pressure test in certain circumstances. Also regulation 45 - Precautions against shock, fire and other hazards of electrical origin to replace the existing paragraph 10 and the addition of a new paragraph 11 in order to control the installation of electrical equipment in spaces where flammable mixtures are likely to collect and in hazardous locations on tankers.

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- SOLAS chapter V regulation 19 Carriage requirements for shipborne navigational systems and equipment to add the words "being clearly readable by the helmsman at the main steering position" in paragraph 2.5 relating to carriage of a gyro compass, or other means to determine and display heading by shipborne non-magnetic means.

- SOLAS chapter VII regulation 10 to delete the superfluous words "For the purpose of this regulation, the requirements of the Code shall be treated as mandatory."

- SOLAS chapter V - addition of Simplified Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR) to the Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (Form E).

- International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures (FTP Code) in Part 2 - Smoke and toxicity test - the addition of "(200 ppm for floor coverings)" in the table of limits in 2.6 Classification criteria, 2.6.2 Toxicity.

- International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft, 2000 (2000 HSC Code) relating to buoyant spaces in Chapter 2 - Buoyancy, stability and subdivision.

- International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) - to reflect the draft amendments to SOLAS chapter II-1 Regulation 45 - Precautions against shock, fire and other hazards of electrical origin. (entry into force date of 1 January 2007).

- STCW Code - amendments to Table A-VI/2-1 - Specifications of minimum standards of competence in survival crafts and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats.

Maritime Authority of Jamaica
4th Floor, Dyll Building
40 Knutsford Boulevard
Kingston 5

+ 876 754-7260/65
+876 754-7256

E-mail: maj@jamaicaships.com
Website: www.jamaicaships.com