
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 1509

**The Merchant Shipping (Cargo Ship
Construction) Regulations 1997**

PART IV

DOUBLE BOTTOMS IN SHIPS OTHER THAN TANKERS

Requirements for ships (other than tankers) constructed on or after 1st February 1992

19.—(1) A double bottom shall be fitted extending from the collision bulkhead to the after peak bulkhead, so far as this is practicable and compatible with the design and proper working of the ship.

(2) Where a double bottom is required to be fitted, its depth shall be to the satisfaction of the Certifying Authority and the inner bottom shall be continued out to the ship's side in such a manner as to protect the bottom to the turn of the bilge.

(3) Small wells constructed in the double bottom, in connection with the drainage arrangements of holds, shall not extend in depth more than necessary. A well extending to the outer bottom is permissible at the after end of the shaft tunnel of the ship. Other wells may be permitted by the Certifying Authority, if it is satisfied that the arrangements give protection equivalent to that afforded by a double bottom complying with this regulation.

(4) A double bottom need not be fitted under watertight compartments used exclusively for the carriage of liquids, provided the safety of the ship in the event of bottom damage is not, in the opinion of the Certifying Authority, thereby impaired.