
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 1012

**The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection:
Large Ships) Regulations 1998**

**TANKERS OF CLASSES VII(T), VIII(T), VIII(A)
(T) AND IX(A)(T) OF 500 TONS OR OVER**

Application

85. Regulations 86 to 101 inclusive apply to tankers of Classes VII(T), VIII(T), VIII(A)(T) and IX(A)(T) of 500 tons or over carrying crude oil and petroleum products having a closed flash-point not exceeding 60°C, and the Reid vapour pressure of which is below that of atmospheric pressure, or other liquids having a similar or additional fire hazard, and to gas carriers, being ships constructed on or after 1st September 1984. Such tankers constructed on or after the 25th May 1980 but before 1st September 1984 shall comply with the provisions in Schedule 3 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1670. Such tankers constructed after 26th May 1965 but before 25th May 1980 shall comply with the provisions in Schedule 4 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1670.

Structure

86.—(1) The hull, superstructures, structural bulkheads, decks and deckhouses shall be constructed of steel or other equivalent material, except that the crowns and casings of machinery spaces of Category A and the exterior boundaries of superstructures and deckhouses which are required to be insulated to “A-60” standard in compliance with regulation 88 shall be constructed only of steel.

(2) Where any part of the structure is of aluminium alloy, the following requirements shall apply—

- (a) the insulation of aluminium alloy components of “A” Class divisions or “B” Class divisions, and supports of such divisions, shall be such that the temperature of the structural core does not rise more than 200°C above the ambient temperature at any time during a standard fire test of 60 minutes duration in the case of an “A” Class division and 30 minutes duration in the case of a “B” Class division ; and
- (b) the insulation of aluminium alloy components of columns, stanchions and other structural members required to support lifeboat and liferaft stowage, launching and embarkation areas, shall be such that the temperature rise limitation specified in sub-paragraph (a) shall apply for 60 minutes duration.

Helicopter decks

87. Regulation 53 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies as it applies to ships to which Part VI applies.

Exterior boundaries of superstructures and deckhouses

88.—(1) Exterior boundaries of superstructures and deckhouses enclosing accommodation, including any overhanging decks which support such accommodation, shall be insulated to “A-60”

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standard for the whole of the portions which face the cargo area and on the side portions for a distance of not less than 3 metres from the portions which face the cargo area.

(2) Entrances, air inlets and openings to accommodation spaces, service spaces and control stations shall not face the cargo area. They shall be located on the transverse bulkhead not facing the cargo area or on the outboard side of the superstructure or deckhouse at a distance of at least 4 per cent of the length of the ship but not less than 3 metres from the end of the superstructure or deckhouse facing the cargo area; provided that such distance need not exceed 5 metres.

(3) No doors shall be fitted within the limits specified in paragraph (2) except that the Secretary of State may permit doors to a space within those limits if—

- (a) that space is a cargo control station, provisions room or store room; and
- (b) that space does not have access to any accommodation space, service space or control station.

Where such doors are fitted to a space located aft of the cargo area, the boundaries of the space shall be insulated to “A-60” standard, with the exception of the boundary facing the cargo area. Bolted plates for removal of machinery may be fitted within the limits specified in paragraph (2). Wheelhouse doors and wheelhouse windows may be located within the limits specified in paragraph (2) so long as they are designed to ensure that the wheelhouse can be made rapidly and efficiently gas and vapour tight.

(4) Windows and sidescuttles facing the cargo area and on the sides of the superstructures and deckhouses within the limits specified in paragraph (2) shall be of the fixed (non-opening) type. Such windows and sidescuttles in the first tier on the main deck shall be fitted with inside covers of steel or other equivalent material.

Boundary bulkheads and decks of machinery spaces of Category A and cargo pump rooms

89.—(1) Windows and sidescuttles shall not be fitted in internal or external boundary bulkheads or decks of machinery spaces of Category A and cargo pump rooms, or in skylights to such spaces, except that such windows and sidescuttles may be fitted in a bulkhead between a machinery space of Category A and a machinery control room located within the boundaries of such a space.

(2) Skylights to machinery spaces of Category A and cargo pump rooms shall be capable of being closed and opened from outside the spaces which they serve.

Bulkheads within accommodation spaces, service spaces and control stations

90.—(1) All bulkheads which are not required to be either “A” Class divisions or “B” Class divisions shall be “C” Class divisions.

(2) All bulkheads required to be “B” Class divisions shall extend from deck to deck and to the shell plating or other boundaries, except that where continuous “B” Class ceilings and/or linings are fitted on both sides of the bulkheads the bulkheads may terminate at such ceilings and/or linings.

(3) All materials used in the construction of “B” Class divisions and “C” Class divisions and doors in “B” Class bulkheads and “C” Class bulkheads shall be non-combustible.

Fire integrity of bulkheads and decks

91. In addition to complying with the specific provisions for fire integrity of bulkheads and decks referred to elsewhere in this Part the minimum fire integrity of bulkheads and decks shall comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1668.

Protection of stairways and lifts in accommodation and service spaces

92.—(1) Every stairway within accommodation spaces, service spaces and control stations shall be constructed of steel except where the Secretary of State may approve the use of other equivalent material. Every such stairway and lift shall lie respectively within an enclosure or trunk constructed of “A” Class divisions of “A-O” standard except that an isolated stairway serving only two decks shall only be required to be enclosed at one level by either “A” Class divisions of “A-O” standard or “B” Class divisions of “B-O” standard provided that the fire integrity of any bulkhead which separates a stairway from either a machinery space of Category A or a cargo pump room shall be determined by reference to Table 3 of Schedule 2 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1668.

(2) Every opening in a stairway enclosure and lift trunk shall be provided with a means of closure which shall be permanently attached thereto and which shall comply with the requirements of regulation 93 or 94, whichever is applicable.

Openings in “A” Class divisions

93. Regulation 76 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies, as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies.

Openings in “B” Class divisions

94. Regulation 77 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies.

Ventilation systems

95. Regulation 78 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies; except that Schedule 2 shall be substituted for Schedule 1 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1668.

Details of construction

96. All ceilings, linings, draught stops and their associated grounds in accommodation and service spaces and control stations shall be of non-combustible materials.

Restriction of combustible materials

97. Regulation 80 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies.

Miscellaneous items of fire protection

98. Regulation 81 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies.

Fixed fire detection and fire alarm system

99. In every tanker to which this Part applies a fixed fire detection and fire alarm system of an approved type complying with the requirements specified in Schedule 5 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1666 shall be so installed and arranged as to provide smoke detection and manually-operated call points in all corridors, stairways and escape routes within accommodation spaces.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

Special arrangements in machinery spaces

100. Regulation 83 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies, as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies.

Means of escape

101. Except for sub-paragraph (2), regulation 84 shall apply to every tanker to which this Part applies as it applies to ships to which Part VII applies.