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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1998 No. 1011**

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

**PART IV—**

**FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE APPLIANCES**

*TANKERS OF CLASS VII(T)*

**Tankers of under 500 tons**

**24.**—(1) Regulation 17 shall apply to every tanker of Class VII(T) of under 500 tons as it applies to ships of Class VII of under 500 tons.

(2) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (1) every tanker of Class VII(T) of under 500 tons shall be provided with at least one mobile foam appliance whereby foam is immediately available by simple and rapid means of operation for discharge in the area of the cargo manifolds.

**Cargo tank purging or gas freeing** *Requirements for ships constructed after 1 September 1984*

**25.**—(1) In every tanker of Class VII(T) of under 500 tons arrangements for purging and/or gas freeing shall be such as to minimize the hazards due to the dispersal of flammable vapours in the atmosphere and to flammable mixtures in a cargo tank.

- (2) The operation shall be such that the flammable vapour is discharged—
- (a) through the vent outlets as specified in regulation 23 of the Merchant Shipping (Cargo Ship Construction) Regulations 1997(1); or
  - (b) if the ship is one constructed on or after 1st February 1992, through outlets at least 2 metres above the cargo tank deck with a vertical efflux velocity of at least 30 metres per second during the gas-freeing operation; or
  - (c) through outlets at least 2 metres above the cargo tank deck with a vertical efflux velocity of at least 20 metres per second and through devices (other than flame screens) complying with Schedule 3 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1671 so as to prevent the passage of flame into the cargo tanks;

until the flammable vapour concentration in the outlet has been reduced to 30 per cent of the lower flammable limit. Thereafter, gas-freeing may be continued at the cargo tank deck level.

**Cargo pump rooms**

**26.**—(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) in every tanker of Class VII(T) of under 500 tons, each cargo pump room and each pump room having a similar hazard shall be provided with either a fixed pressure water-spraying system comply with the requirements of Schedule 2 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1666 or a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system complying with the

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(1) S.I.1997/1509.

requirements of Schedule 4 of Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1666, which shall be operated from a readily accessible position outside the pump room, provided that where the fixed extinguishing system is a gas system—

- (a) the alarm referred to in Schedule 4 in Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1666 shall be safe for use in flammable cargo vapour/air mixture;
- (b) a notice shall be exhibited at the controls stating that due to electrostatic ignition hazard, the system is to be used only for fire-extinguishing and not for inerting purposes;
- (c) where the extinguishing medium used in the cargo pump room system is also used in systems serving other spaces, the quantity of medium provided or its delivery rate need not be more than the maximum required for the largest compartment.

(2) In chemical tankers where the fixed fire-extinguishing system referred to in paragraph (1) is a gas system, the concentration shall be as specified in the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk.

**TANKERS OF CLASS VIII(T) Tankers of 150 tons or over but under 500 tons**

**27.**—(1) Regulations 17, 24(2) and 26 shall apply to tankers of Class VIII(T) of 150 tons or over but under 500 tons as they apply to ships of Classes VII and VII(T) of under 500 tons.

(2) In addition, for tankers constructed on or after 1st September 1984, regulation 25 shall apply to tankers of Class VIII(T) as it applies to tankers of Class VII(T) of under 500 tons.

**Tankers of under 150 tons**

**28.** Regulation 20 shall apply to tankers of Class VIII(T) of under 150 tons as it applies to ships of Class VIII of under 150 tons. In addition there shall be provided a mobile foam appliance in accordance with regulation 24(2).

**TANKERS OF CLASSES VIII(A) AND IX(A)(T) Tankers of under 500 tons**

**29.**—(1) Regulations 27 and 28 shall apply to tankers of Classes VIII(A)(T) and IX(A)(T) as they apply to tankers of Class VIII(T).

(2) The Secretary of State may exempt any tanker of Classes VIII(A)(T) or IX(A)(T) which is under 500 tons or which is not engaged on an international voyage from any of the requirements of these Regulations.