

Marine Information Bulletin

National Standard for Commercial Vessels and Uniform Shipping Laws – Fire protection requirements

Issued 1 March 2010

Background

On 24 February 2010 a legislative exemption was approved allowing ships built under the construction provisions of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels, Part C, Section 4, Fire safety to be equipped under that standard.

The fire appliance requirements of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* and the Uniform Shipping Laws Code are not compatible with the passive fire protection requirements for construction under the National Standard for Commercial Vessels. Similarly the fire protection equipment requirements of the new standard are not compatible with the requirements for construction under the code.

Application of the standards

Ships designed and built under the structural or passive fire protection provisions of the new national standard must carry the fire safety equipment provided for under the fire protection requirements of that standard.

Ships designed and built under the provisions of section 5F of the pre 2008 Uniform Shipping Laws Code must carry the fire safety equipment provided for under the regulation and the pre 2008 code.

Application of requirements to older ships

Ships constructed under a standard practice instruction and built and operating before 1 January 1996 are deemed to comply with the USL code construction standard.

However, standard practice instructions no longer apply to safety equipment, including fire appliances, on these older ships. Fixed fire suppression systems and fire detection systems as provided for in section 11 of the pre 2008 code must be fitted when required. Other fire appliances must also comply with the regulation and the pre-2008 USL code.

Obligations

Accredited persons issuing certificates of compliance for safety equipment are reminded that fire appliances are part of the safety equipment declared under the

safety equipment obligation of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

For new ships certificates of compliance for design must carry information noting that a ship is constructed to the passive fire protection requirements of NSCV C 4 and shall list the active fire protection equipment for the ship. Similarly, a certificate of compliance for safety equipment shall carry a note to the effect that fire safety appliances are NSCV C 4 compliant.

The certificate of registration of a ship constructed to the requirements of NSCV C 4 will be endorsed "Fire protection equipment to comply with NSCV C 4 Fire protection".

Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msg.qld.gov.au and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

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