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MSC.1/Circ.1504
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# UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR SAFE ACCESS TO TANKER BOWS (RESOLUTION MSC.62(67))

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fifth session (3 to 12 June 2015), with a view to providing more specific guidance on the fire resistance requirements for Fibre Reinforce Plastic (FRP) gratings used for safe access to tanker bows, approved a unified interpretation of the *Guidelines for safe access to tanker bows* (resolution MSC.62(67)), prepared by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction, at its second session (16 to 20 February 2015), as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed unified interpretation as guidance when applying resolution MSC.62(67) to approve arrangements using FRP gratings for safe access to tanker bows on or after 5 June 2015 and to bring the unified interpretation to the attention of all parties concerned.

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**ANNEX**

**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR SAFE ACCESS TO TANKER BOWS (RESOLUTION MSC.62(67))**

**Paragraph 1.3 – Gangway and access**

Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) gratings used in lieu of steel gratings for safe access to tanker bows should possess:

.1 low-flame spread characteristics and should not generate excessive quantities of smoke and toxic products as per the International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures, 2010 (2010 FTP Code); and

.2 adequate structural fire integrity as per recognized standards* after undergoing tests in accordance with the above standards.

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* For example, the Standard Specification for Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Gratings Used in Marine Construction and Shipbuilding (ASTM F3059-14).