INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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MSC.1/Circ.1571
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UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF SOLAS CHAPTER II-1

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-eighth session (7 to 16 June 2017), with a view to providing more specific guidance on special requirements for vehicle ferries, ro-ro ships and other ships of similar type, and on the drainage of enclosed spaces situated on the bulkhead deck, approved the unified interpretations of SOLAS chapter II-1, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction, at its fourth session (13 to 17 February 2017), as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying SOLAS regulations II-1/17-1, II-1/20-2 and II-1/35-1, and to bring the unified interpretations to the attention of all parties concerned.

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IMO CONNECTING SHIPS, PORTS AND PEOPLE

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF SOLAS CHAPTER II-1

Regulations II-1/17-1.1.1 and II-1/20-2

1 Stern, bow and side doors of large dimensions, when manual devices would not be readily accessible, should be normally secured by means of power systems.

2 Alternative means of securing should also be provided for emergency use in case of failure of the power systems.

3 In ro-ro passenger ships constructed before 1 July 1997, all access doors or hatchways to spaces below the ro-ro deck, which may be used at sea, should have sills or coamings not less than 380 mm in height above the ro-ro deck, and should be provided with doors or covers considered weathertight in relation to their position; refer to SOLAS regulation II-1/20-2.

4 For ro-ro passenger ships constructed on or after 1 July 1997 but before 1 January 2009, refer to SOLAS regulation II-1/20-2.

5 The ro-ro deck, referred to in paragraph 3 above, is the deck above which the stern, bow or side doors are fitted, or the first deck above the load waterline.

Regulation II-1/35-1.2.6.1

The drainage of enclosed spaces situated on the bulkhead deck to suitable spaces below the bulkhead deck is also permitted provided such drainage is arranged in accordance with the provisions of regulation 22(2) of the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966.