

**RESOLUTION MSC.292(87)**  
**(adopted on 21 May 2010)**

**ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE  
FOR FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

NOTING resolution MSC.98(73) by which it adopted the International Code for Fire Safety Systems (hereinafter referred to as "the FSS Code"), which has become mandatory under chapter II-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"),

NOTING ALSO article VIII(b) and regulation II-2/3.22 of the Convention concerning the procedure for amending the FSS Code,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its eighty- seventh session, amendments to the FSS Code, proposed and circulated in accordance with article VIII(b)(i) of the Convention,

1. ADOPTS, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the International Code for Fire Safety Systems, the text of which is set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. DETERMINES, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vi)(2)(bb) of the Convention, that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2011, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of the Contracting Governments to the Convention or Contracting Governments the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, have notified their objections to the amendments;
3. INVITES Contracting Governments to the Convention to note that, in accordance with article VIII(b)(vii)(2) of the Convention, the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2012 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;
4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article VIII(b)(v) of the Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the Annex to all Contracting Governments to the Convention;
5. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its Annex to Members of the Organization, which are not Contracting Governments to the Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE  
FOR FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS**

**CHAPTER 1  
GENERAL**

**Section 1 – Application**

- 1 The following new sentence is added to the end of paragraph 1.2:

"However, amendments to the Code adopted after 1 July 2002 shall apply only to ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction, on or after the date on which the amendments enter into force, unless expressly provided otherwise."

**CHAPTER 10  
SAMPLE EXTRACTION SMOKE DETECTION SYSTEMS**

- 2 The existing text of chapter 10 is replaced by the following:

**"1 APPLICATION**

This chapter details the specification of sample extraction smoke detection systems in cargo spaces as required by chapter II-2 of the Convention. Unless expressly provided otherwise, the requirements of this chapter shall apply to ships constructed on or after 1 January 2012.

**2 ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS**

**2.1 General requirements**

2.1.1 Wherever in the text of this chapter the word "system" appears, it shall mean "sample extraction smoke detection system".

2.1.1.1 A sample extraction smoke detection system consists of the following main components:

- .1 smoke accumulators: air collection devices installed at the open ends of the sampling pipes in each cargo hold that perform the physical function of collecting air samples for transmission to the control panel through the sampling pipes, and may also act as discharge nozzles for the fixed-gas fire-extinguishing system, if installed;
- .2 sampling pipes: a piping network that connects the smoke accumulators to the control panel, arranged in sections to allow the location of the fire to be readily identified;

- .3 three-way valves: if the system is interconnected to a fixed-gas fire-extinguishing system, three-way valves are used to normally align the sampling pipes to the control panel and, if a fire is detected, the three-way valves are re-aligned to connect the sampling pipes to the fire-extinguishing system discharge manifold and isolate the control panel; and
- .4 control panel: the main element of the system which provides continuous monitoring of the protected spaces for indication of smoke. It typically may include a viewing chamber or smoke sensing units. Extracted air from the protected spaces is drawn through the smoke accumulators and sampling pipes to the viewing chamber, and then to the smoke sensing chamber where the airstream is monitored by electrical smoke detectors. If smoke is sensed, the repeater panel (normally on the bridge) automatically sounds an alarm (not localized). The crew can then determine at the smoke sensing unit which cargo hold is on fire and operate the pertinent three-way valve for discharge of the extinguishing agent.

2.1.2 Any required system shall be capable of continuous operation at all times except that systems operating on a sequential scanning principle may be accepted, provided that the interval between scanning the same position twice gives a maximum allowable interval determined as follows:

The interval (I) should depend on the number of scanning points (N) and the response time of the fans (T), with a 20% allowance:

$$I = 1.2 \times T \times N$$

However, the maximum allowable interval should not exceed 120 s ( $I_{\max} = 120$  s).

2.1.3 The system shall be designed, constructed and installed so as to prevent the leakage of any toxic or flammable substances or fire-extinguishing media into any accommodation space, service space, control station or machinery space.

2.1.4 The system and equipment shall be suitably designed to withstand supply voltage variations and transients, ambient temperature changes, vibration, humidity, shock, impact and corrosion normally encountered in ships and to avoid the possibility of ignition of a flammable gas-air mixture.

2.1.5 The system shall be of a type that can be tested for correct operation and restored to normal surveillance without the renewal of any component.

2.1.6 An alternative power supply for the electrical equipment used in the operation of the system shall be provided.

## **2.2 Component requirements**

2.2.1 The sensing unit shall be certified to operate before the smoke density within the sensing chamber exceeds 6.65% obscuration per metre.

2.2.2 Duplicate sample extraction fans shall be provided. The fans shall be of sufficient capacity to operate with the normal conditions or ventilation in the protected area and the connected pipe size shall be determined with consideration

of fan suction capacity and piping arrangement to satisfy the conditions of paragraph 2.4.2.2. Sampling pipes shall be a minimum of 12 mm internal diameter. The fan suction capacity should be adequate to ensure the response of the most remote area within the required time criteria in paragraph 2.4.2.2. Means to monitor airflow shall be provided in each sampling line.

2.2.3 The control panel shall permit observation of smoke in the individual sampling pipes.

2.2.4 The sampling pipes shall be so designed as to ensure that, as far as practicable, equal quantities of airflow are extracted from each interconnected accumulator.

2.2.5 Sampling pipes shall be provided with an arrangement for periodically purging with compressed air.

2.2.6 The control panel for the smoke detection system shall be tested according to standards EN 54-2 (1997), EN 54-4 (1997) and IEC 60092-504 (2001). Alternative standards may be used as determined by the Administration.

## **2.3 Installation requirements**

### **2.3.1 *Smoke accumulators***

2.3.1.1 At least one smoke accumulator shall be located in every enclosed space for which smoke detection is required. However, where a space is designed to carry oil or refrigerated cargo alternatively with cargoes for which a smoke sampling system is required, means may be provided to isolate the smoke accumulators in such compartments for the system. Such means shall be to the satisfaction of the Administration.

2.3.1.2 Smoke accumulators shall be located on the overhead or as high as possible in the protected space, and shall be spaced so that no part of the overhead deck area is more than 12 m measured horizontally from an accumulator. Where systems are used in spaces which may be mechanically ventilated, the position of the smoke accumulators shall be considered having regard to the effects of ventilation. At least one additional smoke accumulator is to be provided in the upper part of each exhaust ventilation duct. An adequate filtering system shall be fitted at the additional accumulator to avoid dust contamination.

2.3.1.3 Smoke accumulators shall be positioned where impact or physical damage is unlikely to occur.

2.3.1.4 Sampling pipe networks shall be balanced to ensure compliance with paragraph 2.2.4. The number of accumulators connected to each sampling pipe shall ensure compliance with paragraph 2.4.2.2.

2.3.1.5 Smoke accumulators from more than one enclosed space shall not be connected to the same sampling pipe.

2.3.1.6 In cargo holds where non-gastight "tween deck panels" (movable stowage platforms) are provided, smoke accumulators shall be located in both the upper and lower parts of the holds.

### **2.3.2 Sampling pipes**

2.3.2.1 The sampling pipe arrangements shall be such that the location of the fire can be readily identified.

2.3.2.2 Sampling pipes shall be self-draining and suitably protected from impact or damage from cargo working.

## **2.4 System control requirements**

### **2.4.1 Visual and audible fire signals**

2.4.1.1 The detection of smoke or other products of combustion shall initiate a visual and audible signal at the control panel and indicating units.

2.4.1.2 The control panel shall be located on the navigation bridge or in the fire control station. An indicating unit shall be located on the navigation bridge if the control panel is located in the fire control station.

2.4.1.3 Clear information shall be displayed on or adjacent to the control panel and indicating units designating the spaces covered.

2.4.1.4 Power supplies necessary for the operation of the system shall be monitored for loss of power. Any loss of power shall initiate a visual and audible signal at the control panel and the navigating bridge which shall be distinct from a signal indicating smoke detection.

2.4.1.5 Means to manually acknowledge all alarm and fault signals shall be provided at the control panel. The audible alarm sounders on the control panel and indicating units may be manually silenced. The control panel shall clearly distinguish between normal, alarm, acknowledged alarm, fault and silenced conditions.

2.4.1.6 The system shall be arranged to automatically reset to the normal operating condition after alarm and fault conditions are cleared.

### **2.4.2 Testing**

2.4.2.1 Suitable instructions and component spares shall be provided for the testing and maintenance of the system.

2.4.2.2 After installation, the system shall be functionally tested using smoke generating machines or equivalent as a smoke source. An alarm shall be received at the control unit in not more than 180 s for vehicle decks, and not more than 300 s for container and general cargo holds, after smoke is introduced at the most remote accumulator."

3 The following new chapter 16 is added after the existing chapter 15:

**"CHAPTER 16  
FIXED HYDROCARBON GAS DETECTION SYSTEMS**

**1 APPLICATION**

1.1 This chapter details the specifications for fixed hydrocarbon gas detection systems as required by chapter II-2 of the Convention.

1.2 A combined gas detection system required by regulations II-2/4.5.7.3 and II-2/4.5.10 may be accepted in cases where the system fully complies with the requirement of regulation II-2/2 of the Convention.

**2 ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS**

**2.1 General**

2.1.1 The fixed hydrocarbon gas detection system referred to in chapter II-2 of the Convention shall be designed, constructed and tested to the satisfaction of the Administration based on performance standards developed by the Organization.

2.1.2 The system shall be comprised of a central unit for gas measurement and analysis and gas sampling pipes in all ballast tanks and void spaces of double-hull and double-bottom spaces adjacent to the cargo tanks, including the forepeak tank and any other tanks and spaces under the bulkhead deck adjacent to cargo tanks.

2.1.3 The system may be integrated with the cargo pump-room gas detection system, provided that the spaces referred to in paragraph 2.1.2 are sampled at the rate required in paragraph 2.2.3.1. Continuous sampling from other locations may also be considered provided the sampling rate is complied with.

**2.2 Component requirements**

**2.2.1 *Gas sampling lines***

2.2.1.1 Common sampling lines to the detection equipment shall not be fitted, except the lines serving each pair of sampling points as required in paragraph 2.2.1.3.

2.2.1.2 The materials of construction and the dimensions of gas sampling lines shall be such as to prevent restriction. Where non-metallic materials are used, they shall be electrically conductive. The gas sampling lines shall not be made of aluminium.

2.2.1.3 The configuration of gas sampling lines shall be adapted to the design and size of each space. Except as provided in paragraphs 2.2.1.4 and 2.2.1.5, the sampling system shall allow for a minimum of two hydrocarbon gas sampling points, one located on the lower and one on the upper part where sampling is required. When required, the upper gas sampling point shall not be located lower than 1 m from the tank top. The position of the lower located gas sampling point shall be above the height of the girder of bottom shell plating but at least 0.5 m from the bottom of the tank and it shall be provided with means to be closed when clogged. In positioning the fixed sampling points, due regard should also be given to the density of vapours of the oil products intended to be transported and the dilution from space purging or ventilation.

2.2.1.4 For ships with deadweight of less than 50,000 tonnes, the Administration may allow the installation of one sampling location for each tank for practical and/or operational reasons.

2.2.1.5 For ballast tanks in the double-bottom, ballast tanks not intended to be partially filled and void spaces, the upper gas sampling point is not required.

2.2.1.6 Means shall be provided to prevent gas sampling lines from clogging when tanks are ballasted by using compressed air flushing to clean the line after switching from ballast to cargo loaded mode. The system shall have an alarm to indicate if the gas sampling lines are clogged.

## **2.2.2 Gas analysis unit**

2.2.2.1 The gas analysis unit shall be located in a safe space and may be located in areas outside the ship's cargo area; for example, in the cargo control room and/or navigation bridge in addition to the hydraulic room when mounted on the forward bulkhead, provided the following requirements are observed:

- .1 sampling lines shall not run through gas safe spaces, except where permitted under subparagraph .5;
- .2 the hydrocarbon gas sampling pipes shall be equipped with flame arresters. Sample hydrocarbon gas is to be led to the atmosphere with outlets arranged in a safe location, not close to a source of ignitions and not close to the accommodation area air intakes;
- .3 a manual isolating valve, which shall be easily accessible for operation and maintenance, shall be fitted in each of the sampling lines at the bulkhead on the gas safe side;
- .4 the hydrocarbon gas detection equipment including sample piping, sample pumps, solenoids, analysing units etc., shall be located in a reasonably gas-tight cabinet (e.g., fully enclosed steel cabinet with a door with gaskets) which is to be monitored by its own sampling point. At a gas concentration above 30% of the lower flammable limit inside the steel enclosure the entire gas analysing unit is to be automatically shut down; and

- .5 where the enclosure cannot be arranged directly on the bulkhead, sample pipes shall be of steel or other equivalent material and without detachable connections, except for the connection points for isolating valves at the bulkhead and analysing unit, and are to be routed on their shortest ways.

### **2.2.3 Gas detection equipment**

2.2.3.1 The gas detection equipment shall be designed to sample and analyse from each sampling line of each protected space, sequentially at intervals not exceeding 30 min.

2.2.3.2 Means shall be provided to enable measurements with portable instruments, in case the fixed system is out of order or for system calibration. In case the system is out of order, procedures shall be in place to continue to monitor the atmosphere with portable instruments and to record the measurement results.

2.2.3.3 Audible and visual alarms are to be initiated in the cargo control room, navigation bridge and at the analysing unit when the vapour concentration in a given space reaches a pre-set value, which shall not be higher than the equivalent of 30% of the lower flammable limit.

2.2.3.4 The gas detection equipment shall be so designed that it may readily be tested and calibrated."