

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: FIRE EXTINGUISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR PAINT AND FLAMMABLE LIQUID LOCKERS ON EXISTING VESSELS

PURPOSE: IMO Resolution MSC.13(57) issued on 11 April 1989 incorporated several amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974), effective 1 February 1992. One of these amendments, Regulation 18.7 in Chapter II-2, stipulated requirements be established by Administrations for fire extinguishing capability in paint lockers and flammable liquid lockers. This Circular provides the National requirements based on the Administration's interpretation of the intent of the regulation for vessels with a keel laid, or at a similar stage of construction, before 1 July 2002.

Pursuant to the new SOLAS Chapter II-2, adopted on 5 December 2000 in IMO Resolution MSC.99(73) and effective 1 July 2002, this Circular also provides requirements for fire protection of paint and flammable liquid lockers on the Commonwealth of Dominica flag vessels constructed on or after 1 July 2002.

APPLICABILITY: All vessels flying the flag of the Commonwealth of Dominica

REQUIREMENTS:**1.0 Requirements for Commonwealth of Dominica flag vessels****1.1 Existing vessels with keel laid before 1 February 1992**

- .1 Lockers of 10m² (i.e., 5m x 2m) or less in deck area - one portable fire extinguisher located outside the entrance to the space.
- .2 Lockers greater than 10m², but less than 20m² in deck area - two portable fire extinguishers located outside the entrance to the space.

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- .3 Lockers greater than 20m² in deck area - a suitable fixed fire extinguishing system as defined below.

1.2 Existing vessels with keel laid on or after 1 February 1992 and before 1 February 1998

- .1 Lockers of 10m² (i.e. 5m x 2m) or less in deck area - one portable fire extinguisher located outside the entrance to the space.
- .2 Lockers greater than 10m² in deck area - a suitable fixed fire extinguishing system as specified below.

1.3 Existing vessels with keel laid on or after 1 February 1998 and before 1 July 2002

- .1 Lockers of 4m² (i.e. 2m x 2m) or less in deck area - one portable fire extinguisher located outside the entrance to the space.
- .2 Lockers greater than 4m² in deck area - a suitable fixed fire extinguishing system as described below.

1.4 Vessels with keel laid on or after 1 July 2002

- .1 Paint lockers shall be protected by a suitable fixed fire extinguishing system as described below.
- .2 Flammable liquid lockers shall be protected by an appropriate fire-extinguishing arrangement approved by the Administration or Recognized Organization.
- .3 For lockers of a deck area of less than 4 m², which do not give access to accommodation spaces, a carbon dioxide portable fire extinguisher sized to provide a minimum volume of free gas equal to 40% of the gross volume of the space may be accepted in lieu of a fixed system. A discharge port shall be arranged in the locker to allow the discharge of the extinguisher without having to enter into the protected space. The required portable fire extinguisher shall be stowed adjacent to the port. Alternatively, a port or hose connection may be provided to facilitate the use of fire main water.

2.0 Definitions applying to this Circular

2.1 **Portable fire extinguisher** - an extinguisher which is designed to be carried and operated by hand and which has a maximum fully charged weight of 23 kg (50.7 pounds). The minimum size for paint and flammable liquid lockers is either:

- .1 Carbon Dioxide; with a charge of 6.8 kg (15 pounds)
- .2 Dry Chemical; with a charge of 4.5 kg (10 pounds)

2.2 **Suitable fixed fire extinguishing system** - a system designed to a recognized standard and of a medium and capacity as follows:

- .1 a carbon dioxide system, designed to give a minimum volume of free gas equal to 40% of the gross volume of the protected space;
- .2 a dry powder system, designed for at least 0.5 kg powder/m³;
- .3 a water spraying or sprinkler system, designed for 5 l/m² of deck area per minute. Water spraying systems may be connected to the fire main of the ship.

In any case, the system shall be operable from outside the protected space.

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