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MSC.1/Circ.1424
13 June 2012

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION II-1/48.3

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012), with a view to ensuring a uniform approach towards the application of the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-1/48.3, and following a recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, at its fifty-sixth session, approved the annexed unified interpretation concerning the controls of the emergency bilge suction valve in periodically unattended machinery spaces.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed interpretation from 21 May 2012 when applying the relevant provisions of SOLAS regulation II-1/48.3 and to bring it to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION CONCERNING THE CONTROLS OF THE EMERGENCY BILGE SUCTION VALVE IN PERIODICALLY UNATTENDED MACHINERY SPACES (SOLAS REGULATION II-1/48.3)

SOLAS regulation II-1/48.3 reads:

**"Regulation 48
Protection against flooding**

3 The location of the controls of any valve serving a sea inlet, a discharge below the waterline or a bilge injection system shall be so sited as to allow adequate time for operation in case of influx of water to the space, having regard to the time likely to be required in order to reach and operate such controls. If the level to which the space could become flooded with the ship in the fully loaded condition so requires, arrangements shall be made to operate the controls from a position above such level."

Interpretation

1 "Bilge injection system" is the same as "direct suction" referred to in SOLAS regulation II-1/35-1.3.7.1 and 3.7.2 and is understood to mean "emergency bilge suction", which is used to discharge overboard large quantities of seawater accumulated in engine-room bilges using the main circulating pump or another suitable pump as permitted by SOLAS regulation II-1/35-1.3.7.2.

2 The requirements for the controls of the "valves serving a sea inlet, a discharge below the waterline or a bilge injection system" should not be applied to valves serving an emergency bilge system, provided:

- .1 the emergency bilge valve is normally maintained in a closed position;
- .2 a non-return device is installed in the emergency bilge piping; and

Note: A normally closed non-return valve with positive means of closing is considered to satisfy both .1 and .2 above.

- .3 the emergency bilge suction piping is located inboard of a shell valve that is fitted with the control arrangements required by SOLAS regulation II-1/48.3.