



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY
OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT
OF
MERCHANT SHIPPING
LIMASSOL

Circular No. 23/2012
File: DMS 1/5 & DMS 32/4/7/1

10 May 2012

Recognized and Authorized Classification Societies

Registered owners, registered bareboat charterers,
managers, operators and masters of
ships flying the Cyprus flag

Subject: **Periodical inspection and maintenance of:**

- (1) **Fixed fire detection and extinguishing systems,**
- (2) **Portable and non-portable fire extinguishers,**
- (3) **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus,**
- (4) **Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus,**
- (5) **Oxygen bottles for medical use,**
- (6) **Self-contained air support systems for lifeboats, and**
- (7) **Compressed air cylinders used in inflatable liferafts**

1 General

1.1 All fixed fire detection and extinguishing systems, including drenching systems, all portable and non-portable fire extinguishers and all other systems and appliances referred to in this circular should, as a rule, be inspected and maintained in accordance with their respective manufacturer's recommendations.

1.2 In addition, as a rule, third party inspection and maintenance (third party inspection) should be done by a service provider which:

- (1) is authorized or accredited in this respect by the manufacturer of the system or of the appliances; or
- (2) in the absence of such service provider, by a service provider which is accredited in this respect by the classification society which is issuing to the ship, on behalf of this Government, the related statutory certificate; or by a service provider which is accredited in this respect by one of the other classification societies which are authorized to issue, on behalf of this Government, the related statutory certificate to ships which are classed with them, provided the accreditation of the service provider by the other classification society is acceptable to the



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classification society which is issuing to the ship, on behalf of this Government, the related statutory certificate.

1.3 Third party inspection by a service provider which does not fall under any one of the categories listed above could be done provided the prior authorization of this Department has been obtained.

1.4 Furthermore, the following general rules apply:

- (1) all fixed extinguishing systems which operate under pressure and all pressure vessels of the other systems¹ or of appliances² referred to in this circular should be hydrostatically tested after the completion of any repairs thereto;
- (1) all fixed extinguishing systems which operate under pressure and all pressure vessels of the other systems or of appliances referred to in this circular should be thoroughly inspected and hydrostatically tested after they have been discharged and before they are recharged;
- (2) the system or an individual part or unit of the system and appliance should be recharged when the loss of contents of the system as a whole or of an individual part or unit of the system or of an appliance exceeds 10%; and
- (3) in all circumstances the attending surveyor can require, if he/she deems it fit, the thorough inspection, hydrostatic testing or the recharging of a system or of an individual part or unit of the system or of an appliance.

2 Specific requirements

2.1 In the absence of related recommendations by the manufacturer of the system or of the appliance these should undergo third party inspection and/or testing as specified below.

2.2 The time interval specified below should be counted from the date of the completion of the construction of a system or of an appliance or from the date of the initial hydrostatic testing, as the case may be or in the absence of such date from the date of completion of the initial survey of the ship upon construction and thereafter from the date of completion of the previous third party inspection or testing.

2.2.1 The third party inspections should preferably be carried out within a window of “+/- three months” from the anniversary of the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment

¹ *System* refers to fixed fire detection and extinguishing systems and self-contained air support systems for lifeboats.

² *Appliance* refers to portable and non-portable fire extinguishers, self-contained breathing apparatus, emergency escape breathing apparatus, oxygen bottles for medical use; and compressed air cylinders used in inflatable liferafts.

Certificate or of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate, as the case may be. However, the “+/- three months” window does not apply to the anniversary date of the third party inspection of the system or of the appliance.

2.2.2 The Department may, upon request and in exceptional cases, extend the time interval specified below for limited periods from the anniversary of the previous third party inspection.

3.1 Fixed fire detection and extinguishing systems

3.1.1 Fixed fire detection and extinguishing systems are subject to third party inspection at interval not exceeding two years.

3.2 Fixed fire fighting systems

3.2.1 The quantity of fire extinguishing medium should be checked at intervals not exceeding two years. In case the loss of contents of the system as a whole or of an individual part or unit of the system exceeds 10%, the system or the individual part or unit of the system should be recharged.

3.2.2 The chemical composition of foam medium used in fixed fire extinguishing systems should be tested no later than three years after the date it was installed on board and thereafter at yearly intervals.

3.2.3 At least 10% of the pressure vessels containing fire extinguishing medium should be hydrostatically tested no later than 10 years from the date of the completion of their initial testing following their construction and thereafter 10% of the pressure vessels should be hydrostatically tested during each 10 years period.

3.2.3.1 The Department is willing to consider and approve alternative schemes of hydrostatic testing.

3.2.4 The control valves of fixed fire extinguishing systems should be internally inspected at interval not exceeding five years

3.2.5 The flexible hoses should be replaced at the intervals not exceeding every ten years.

3.3 Portable and non-portable fire extinguishers

3.3.1 Portable and non-portable fire extinguishers are subject to third party inspection at intervals not exceeding two years.

3.3.2 The quantity of fire extinguishing medium and the quantity of propellant medium should be checked at yearly intervals. In case the loss of contents exceeds 10% the extinguisher should be recharged.

3.3.3 Water, gas, powder or foam fire-extinguishing medium and propellant medium should be replaced at interval not exceeding five years.

3.3.4 The flexible hoses, applicators and control valves, including those of the propellant medium, should be visually inspect at yearly intervals and should be replaced at the intervals not exceeding every ten years.

3.3.5 Containers which are kept under pressure should be internally inspected and hydrostatically tested at interval not exceeding five years.

3.3.6 Containers which are not kept under pressure should be internally inspected and hydrostatically tested at interval not exceeding ten years.

3.3.7 The Portable and non-portable fire extinguishers which have been discharged should be at least internally inspected before they are being recharged on board and should be internally inspected and hydrostatically tested before they are being recharged ashore.

3.4 Spare charges for portable and non-portable fire extinguishers

3.4.1 Spare charges should be provided on board for 100% for the first ten portable and for the first five non-portable extinguishers and 50% for the remaining extinguishers but not more than 60 total (fractions to be rounded off to next number) spare charges for portable and non-portable fire extinguishers.

3.4.2 The spare charges should be materials which are manufactured by the manufacturer of the extinguisher for which they will be used or materials which considered as acceptable for use by the manufacturer of the extinguisher for which they will be used.

3.4.3 In case no means are provided on board for recharging portable and non-portable fire extinguishers, additional portable and non-portable fire extinguishers of the same type and capacity quantity should be provided on board as specified above in relation to the spare charges to be carried on board.

3.5 Self-contained breathing apparatus

3.5.1 The self-contained breathing apparatus are subject to third party inspection at intervals not exceeding two years.

3.5.2 The shipborne air charging system is subject to third party inspection at yearly intervals.

3.5.3 The mask, the flexible hoses, breathing regulator and the control valves should be visually inspect at yearly intervals and should be replaced at the intervals not exceeding every five years.

3.5.4 The quantity of air should be checked at yearly intervals. In case the loss of contents of the system as a whole or of an individual part or unit of the system exceeds 10%, the system or the individual part or unit of the system should be recharged.

3.5.5 The quality of air of the self-contained breathing apparatus should be checked at intervals not exceeding two years.

3.5.6 The quality of air of shipborne air charging system should be checked at yearly intervals.

3.5.7 The air bottles of the self-contained breathing apparatus and any pressure vessels of the shipborne air charging system should be internally inspected and hydrostatically tested at interval not exceeding five years.

3.5.8 The control valves of the self-contained breathing apparatus and of the shipborne air charging system should be internally inspected at interval not exceeding five years.

3.5.9 The air bottles should which have been discharged should be at least internally inspected before they are being recharged on board and should be internally inspected and hydrostatically tested before they are being recharged ashore.

3.5.10 For every self-contained breathing apparatus, 200% spare charged spare air bottles should be provided on board, unless there are means on board for charging the air bottles.

3.6 Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus

Section 3.5 applies also *mutatis mutandis* in relation to Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus.

3.7 Oxygen bottles for medical use

Section 3.5 applies also *mutatis mutandis in relation* oxygen bottles for medical use with the proviso that 200 % spared charged oxygen bottles for medical use should be provided on board.

3.8 Self-contained air support system for lifeboats

Section 3.5 applies also *mutatis mutandis* in relation self-contained air support system for lifeboats.

3.9 Compressed air cylinders used in inflatable liferafts

3.9.1 The air cylinders used in inflatable liferafts should be internally inspected and hydrostatically tested at interval not exceeding ten years.

4 Implementation

4.1 The provisions of this circular become applicable for each ship on the first safety equipment related survey on or after 1 July 2012.

5 Related documents

SOLAS chapter II-2, FSS Code, IMO Assembly resolution A.951(23), IMO MSC circulars 670, 847, 849 and 850 and IMO MSC.1 circulars 1312 and 1318.

This Circular supersedes Circular No. 06/2000 which is hereby revoked.

This Circular must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.



Dr. Anthony Madella
Acting Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

cc: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Inspectors of Cyprus ships
Cyprus Shipping Chamber
Cyprus Union of Shipowners
Cyprus Bar Association

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