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SLS.14/Circ.444  
1 February 2012

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974**

**Equivalent arrangements accepted under regulation I/5**

**Valves in the collision bulkhead of cargo vessels**

**Communication by the Government of the United States**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication from the Government of the United States in respect of equivalent arrangements for valves in the collision bulkhead of a cargo vessel accepted under regulation I/5 of the above Convention.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

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**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**



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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974,  
AS MODIFIED BY THE PROTOCOL OF 1988**

**Equivalent arrangement for valves in the collision bulkhead of a cargo vessel**

**Submitted by the United States**

1 In accordance with regulation 5 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as modified by the Protocol of 1988, the United States will consider, on a case-by-case basis, fitting of a butterfly valve in the collision bulkhead of a U.S. flagged cargo vessel if the valve provides adequate shutoff integrity when exposed to fire.

2 The 2005 amendments to regulation 12.5.1 in chapter II-1 of SOLAS 1974 require ships having a pipe that penetrates the collision bulkhead to be fitted with a screw-down valve. Prior to the amendments coming into force, cargo ships were required to be fitted with a suitable valve for such penetration.

3 Butterfly valves that provide adequate shutoff integrity when exposed to fire include valves that are categorized by the U.S. Coast Guard as either "positive shutoff valves" or "Category A valves" in accordance with national standards using actual fire testing, flow rate performance testing or flow calculations.

4 Accordingly, the United States will allow fitting of butterfly valves of either category in the collision bulkhead of a U.S. flagged cargo vessel. Vessels fitted with such valves will have an annotation placed in the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate. Type approval certificate will not be issued.

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