

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fourth session (5 to 9 December 1994), agreed that there was a need to provide Administrations with guidelines regarding the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10 concerning exemptions from the requirements for fire-extinguishing systems.

Consequently, the Committee approved MSC/Circ.671 whereby it agreed to:

- a list of solid bulk cargoes, for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted (table 1) and recommended Member States to take into account the information contained in table 1 when granting exemptions under the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4;
- a list of solid bulk cargoes for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is ineffective (table 2), and recommended that cargo spaces in a ship engaged in the carriage of cargoes listed in table 2 be provided with a fire-extinguishing system which provides equivalent protection. The Committee also agreed that Administrations should take account of the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-2/19.3.1 when determining suitable requirements for an equivalent fire-extinguishing system.

Regarding SOLAS regulation II-2/10.7.1.4, The Administration may exempt from the above mentioned requirements for cargo spaces of any cargo ship if constructed, and solely intended for, the carriage of ore, coal, grain, unseasoned timber, non-combustible cargoes or cargoes which, in the opinion of the Administration, constitute a low fire risk. Such exemptions may be granted only if the ship is fitted with steel hatch covers and effective means of closing ventilators and other openings leading to the cargo spaces. When such exemptions are granted, the Administration shall issue an Exemption Certificate, irrespective of the date of construction of the ship concerned, in accordance with regulation I/12(a) (vii), and shall ensure that the list of cargoes the ship is permitted to carry is attached to the Exemption Certificate.

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 107th session (31 May to 9 June 2023), considering the proposal by the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, at its eighth session, approved a revision of MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.5, as set out in the circular.

Table 1 - List of Solid Bulk Cargoes for Which A Fixed Gas Fire-Extinguishing System May Be Exempted

| Cargoes Including, But Not Limited to, Those Listed in SOLAS Regulation II-2/10 |
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| Ore Coal (COAL and BROWN COAL BRIQUETTES) Grain Unseasoned timber |
| Cargoes listed in the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code, which are not combustible or constitute a low fire risk |
| All cargoes not categorized into group B in the IMSBC Code; The following cargoes categorized into group B in the IMSBC Code: |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ALUMINA HYDRATE 2. ALUMINIUM SMELTING BY-PRODUCTS UN 3170 3. (Both the names ALUMINIUM SMELTING BY-PRODUCTS or ALUMINIUM REMELTING BY-PRODUCTS are in use as proper shipping name) 4. ALUMINIUM FERROSILICON POWDER UN 1395 5. ALUMINIUM SILICON POWDER, UNCOATED UN 1398 6. AMORPHOUS SODIUM SILICATE LUMPS 7. BORIC ACID 8. CLINKER ASH 9. COAL TAR PITCH 10. DIRECT REDUCED IRON (A) Briquettes, hot-moulded 11. ELECTRIC ARC FURNACE DUST, PELLETIZED 12. FERROPHOSPHORUS (including briquettes) 13. FERROSILICON UN 1408, with 30% or more but less than 90% silicon (including briquettes) 14. FERROSILICON, with at least 25% but less than 30% silicon, or 90% or more silicon 15. FLUE DUST, CONTAINING LEAD AND ZINC 16. FLUORSPAR 17. GRANULATED NICKEL MATTE (less than 2% moisture content) 18. LEACH RESIDUE CONTAINING LEAD 19. LIME (UNSLAKED) 20. LOGS 21. MAGNESIA (UNSLAKED) 22. MATTE CONTAINING COPPER AND LEAD 23. MONOCALCIUMPHOSPHATE (MCP) 24. MONOAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (M.A.P.), MINERAL ENRICHED COATING 25. PEAT MOSS 26. PETROLEUM COKE (calcined or uncalcined)* 27. PITCH PRILL 28. PULP WOOD 29. PYRITES, CALCINED (calcined pyrites) 30. RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, LOW SPECIFIC ACTIVITY (LSA-I), non-fissile or fissile-excepted UN 2912 31. RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, SURFACE CONTAMINATED OBJECTS (SCO-I), non-fissile or fissile-excepted UN 2913 32. ROUNDWOOD 33. SAND, MINERAL CONCENTRATE, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, LOW SPECIFIC ACTIVITY (LSA-I) UN 2912 34. SAW LOGS 35. SILICOMANGANESE (low carbon) 36. SULPHUR, UN 1350 (crushed lump and coarse grained) 37. SUPERPHOSPHATE (triple, granular) 38. TIMBER 39. VANADIUM ORE 40. WOODCHIPS, with moisture content of 15% or more 41. WOOD PELLETS NOT CONTAINING ANY ADDITIVES AND/OR BINDERS 42. ZINC ASHES UN 1435 |

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| 43. ZINC OXIDE ENRICHED FLUE DUST |
| Cargoes Assigned to The Following Generic Group B Shipping Schedules When They Do Not Exhibit Any Self-Heating, Flammability or Water-Reactive Flammability Hazards In Accordance With The MHB Tests And Classification Criteria Contained In The Code: |
| METAL SULPHIDE CONCENTRATES METAL SULPHIDE CONCENTRATES, CORROSIVE UN 1759 |
| Solid Bulk Cargoes Which Are Not Listed In The IMSBC Code |
| Provided That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. they are assessed in accordance with section 1.3 of the Code; 2. they do not present hazards of group B as defined in the Code; and 3. a certificate has been provided by the competent authority of the port of loading to the master in accordance with 1.3.2 of the Code. |

Table 2 - List of Solid Bulk Cargoes for Which A Fixed Gas Fire-Extinguishing System Is Ineffective and For Which A Fire-Extinguishing System Giving Equivalent Protection Shall Be Available

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| The following cargoes are categorized into group B of the IMSBC Code |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ALUMINIUM NITRATE UN 1438 2. AMMONIUM NITRATE UN 1942, with not more than 0.2% total combustible material, including any organic substance, calculated as carbon to the exclusion of any other added substance 3. AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER MHB 4. AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER UN 2067 5. AMMONIUM NITRATE BASED FERTILIZER UN 2071 6. BARIUM NITRATE UN 1446 7. CALCIUM NITRATE UN 1454 8. LEAD NITRATE UN 1469 9. MAGNESIUM NITRATE UN 1474 10. POTASSIUM NITRATE UN 1486 11. SODIUM NITRATE UN 1498 12. SODIUM NITRATE AND POTASSIUM NITRATE, MIXTURE UN 1499 |

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