

CIRCULAR

Audible alarm device in self-contained breathing apparatus cylinders

Each compressed air breathing apparatus is to be fitted with an audible alarm and a visual or other device which will alert the user before the volume of the air in the cylinder has been reduced to no less than 200 litres.

Through MSC.338(91) amendments have been adopted to SOLAS Regulation II-2/10.10.1 requiring self-contained compressed air breathing apparatus of fire-fighter's outfits to be fitted with an audible alarm and a visual or other device which will alert the user before the volume of the air in the cylinder has been reduced to no less than 200 litres. The new requirement is related to the FSS Code amendments introduced to paragraph 2.1.2.2 / Chapter 3 (referring to MSC.339(91)) and applies retrospectively.

Ships built after July 1, 2012 are no longer having a smoke-helmet type breathing apparatus (refer to IMO MSC/Circ.1085) and the above new requirement is coming in force on July 1, 2014.

Given that ships built before July 1, 2012 were only required to be fitted with smoke helmets/smoke masks (without portable tanks) as part of fireman's outfits, a five year grace period has been granted. Therefore, ship owners / managers / operators of existing ships (i.e. built before July 1, 2012) should assure no later than July 1, 2019 to be fitted with an additional self-contained compressed air breathing apparatus to replace or make disused, existing smoke helmet type devices where these form part of the minimum equipment required.

Warning device

The self-contained breathing apparatus shall have a suitable device that operates when the pressure drops to a fixed level for warning of the user. The most frequent type of warning device is an audible whistle, nonetheless, pneumatically or electrically operated devices can also be accepted.

The warning device shall either be activated automatically when the pressure valve is opened or if manually activated it shall not be possible to use the apparatus before the device is activated.

The warning device should activate at a pressure of 55+/-5 bar or at such high pressure as will guarantee that the air in the cylinder has not been reduced to less than 200 litres.

Act now

Owners / Operators / Managers of ships built after July 1, 2002 shall assure that their ships comply with the above mentioned new requirement by July 1, 2014.

Owners / Operators / Managers of ships built before July 1, 2002 shall assure that their ships comply with the above mentioned new requirement by July 1, 2019.

Dromon Surveyors should check the new requirement, as applicable.

Applicability

Ship Type	GT	Date in force
All ship types built after 01/07/2002	500 GT and above	01/07/2014
All ship types built before 01/07/2002	500 GT and above	01/07/2019*

*No later than this date.

NOTICE TO
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