



Notice to Industry

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Requirement for fire flaps on vessels with a measured length less than 12.5m

The Uniform Shipping Law Code (USL Code) at Section 5F, Clause 3.13, requires machinery and high risk spaces to have closing devices acceptable to the Authority enabling the space to be closed down in the event of fire.

Section 11, Part 1, Clause 5, states that machinery spaces shall be provided with means for closing all skylights, doorways, ventilators, annular spaces, around funnels and other openings to such spaces from positions outside the said spaces not made inaccessible by fire within such spaces.

This clause shall apply to all vessels other than class 3 vessels of less than 15 metres in length.

The National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) Part C Section 4 – Fire Safety Table 3 – Categories of Spaces Classifies a High Risk Space as....

“Enclosed machinery spaces containing internal combustion machinery for main propulsion, where the aggregate power output of the internal combustion machinery for all purposes within the space is 120Kw or more.....”

Because of the inconsistency in the USL Code, and in view of the clarification provided by the NSCV document, this Department has assumed that the intention of the USL Code was to have high risk spaces such as machinery spaces fitted with vent closures (fire flaps).

Therefore all vessels fitted with internal combustion machinery where the aggregate power output for all purposes within the space is 120Kw or more, are to be fitted with vent closures (fire flaps) operable from outside the protected space.

This Notice To Industry requires the installation of vent closures to vessels that commence construction, or that are substantially modified in way of internal combustion machinery, after the 1st of October 2006.

It is recommended that vessels not requiring ventilation closures by this Notice to Industry be modified anyway.

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