

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 03-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: FIRE-FIGHTING OUTFITS – FIRE PROXIMITY SUITS

Date: 28 January 2020

Port State Control (PSC) deficiencies are being issued by Paris Memorandum of Understanding member states over fire-fighting outfits with the following indications:

- Not suitable for fire entry;
- Not a fire entry suit; or
- Outfit with buttons and or latches penetrating the suit and conducting heat to the wearer.

The subject fire-fighting outfits are mostly International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) or Fire Safety Code approved but according to the deficiency text, “May not provide the wearer sufficient thermal protection from the radiated heat if entering an enclosed space.”

Code 17 deficiencies are issued when the targeted outfits are used during enclosed space fire-fighting drills, when the wearer is not aware of its limitations, or when the limitations are not indicated in the SOLAS training manual.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator advises that when the targeted fire-fighting outfits are the only ones available on board, the fire teams should be aware of the outfit limitations. The outfit limitations should be included in the ship specific training manual.

PSC Officers issuing these deficiencies advise that “European Norm EN469” fire-fighting outfits are considered suitable to fight fires within enclosed spaces.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.