



Technical Circular

No.: 11/2015

Date: 3rd June 2015

To Whomsoever it may concern

Subject: Portable Atmosphere Testing Instrument for Enclosed Spaces

- MSC. Resolution 380(94) adopts amendments to SOLAS Chapter XI-1, introducing new regulation 7 which requires the carriage of portable atmosphere testing instruments capable of measuring concentration of oxygen, flammable gases or vapours, hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide w.e.f. 1 July 2016.
- The portable atmosphere testing instrument should be used to test an enclosed space from the outside to render the space safe for entry.
- The instrument should be intrinsically safe and should be calibrated as per manufacturer's instructions.
- The instrument should be provided with a manual that describes its features and alarms and explains how to calibrate, operate and maintain it. The information in this manual should be available in the working language of the ship. MSC.1/Circ.1477 provides the detailed guidelines regarding the portable atmosphere testing instrument.
- Portable gas measuring instrument required by other SOLAS requirements and which also comply with MSC.1/Circ.1477 may be used to satisfy above requirements.
- MSC 92 had adopted Resolution MSC. 350(92), amending SOLAS Chapter III/Reg 19 "Emergency Training and Drills" which requires that each enclosed space entry and rescue drills shall include checking and use of instrument for measuring the atmosphere in an enclosed space and is already in force w.e.f. 1 January 2015.
- However, since SOLAS Regulation III/19 did not introduce the carriage requirements for atmosphere testing instruments for enclosed spaces, IMO recognized the need to implement new SOLAS Regulation XI-1/7 early and by circular MSC.1/Circ.1485 has invited SOLAS contracting Governments to voluntarily implement SOLAS Regulation XI-1/7 to ships entitled to fly their flags, as soon as practicable, taking in to account that the entry into force date of the corresponding amendments to SOLAS is 1 July 2016.

- 1979 MODU Code, 1989 MODU Code and 2009 MODU Code were amended vide IMO Resolution MSC.382(94), MSC.383(94) and MSC.384(94) respectively to mandate above requirement of portable atmosphere testing instruments on MODU vessels.
- Ship Owners and Managers are advised to be guided by above requirements which may be complied voluntarily prior to the date of entry in to force of the regulation.

Enclosure:

1. Nil

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