



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Guideline

No. 2-11-17

May/2018

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Voluntary Early Implementation of SOLAS Regulations II-2/1 and II-2/10, Firefighting

- References:**
- (a) **IMO Resolution [MSC.409\(97\)](#)**, *Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS)*, adopted 25 November 2016
 - (b) **IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1566](#)**, *Voluntary Early Implementation of the Amendments to SOLAS Regulations II-2/1 and II-2/10, Adopted by Resolution MSC.409(97)*, issued 15 June 2017

PURPOSE

This Marine Guideline notifies all parties that the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”), has approved the voluntary early implementation for the amended Regulations 1 and 10 of Chapter II-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS).

BACKGROUND

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its ninety-seventh session (21-25 November 2016), adopted amendments to SOLAS Regulations II-2/1 and II-2/10, by IMO Resolution MSC.409(97).

At its 98th session, 07-16 June 2017, the MSC, adhering to the *Guidelines on the voluntary early implementation of amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and related mandatory instruments* (IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1565), agreed to allow SOLAS Contracting Governments to implement them prior to their entry-into-force date, 01 January 2020.

APPLICABILITY

From 15 November 2017, Regulation 10.5.1.2.2, amended by IMO Resolution MSC.409(97), may be applied to RMI-flagged ships constructed before 01 January 2020. This includes those constructed before 01 July 2012.

GUIDANCE

1.0 IMO Resolution [MSC.409\(97\)](#) replaces the last sentence of Regulation 10.5.1.2.2 with:

“In the case of domestic boilers of less than 175 kW, or boilers protected by fixed water-based local application fire-extinguishing systems as required by paragraph 5.6, an approved foam-type extinguisher of at least 135 l capacity is not required.”

1.1 The Administrator has determined that voluntary early implementation of this amendment is acceptable. The existing provisions for equivalent arrangements under SOLAS Regulation I/5 are appropriate to cover the interim period from the voluntary early implementation time until the amendment’s entry-into-force date.

1.2 The IMO has been notified of the Administrator’s early adoption of these amendments as an equivalence in the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

2.0 When RMI is acting in a Port State Control capacity, it will take into account voluntary early implementation and subsequent notifications communicated through GISIS by other Contracting Governments as provided in IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1566](#).

3.0 A copy of this Marine Guideline should be kept on board with the ship’s documents to show the authorized application of this Regulation.