



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fire fighting protective clothing

The aim of this notice is to provide guidance to Ship Owners and Operators regarding the different suitability of approved protective clothing used in fire fighting on board ships.

Documents referred to in this notice:

SOLAS 1974 as amended, Chapter II-2, regulation 10

Fire Safety Systems Code (2007 edition), Chapter 3, part 2.1

Depending on the keel laying date of the vessel:-

MS (Fire Protection) regulations 1984 *regulations 11, 21, 37, 53 and 69 or;*

MS (Fire Appliance) regulations 1980 *regulations 12, 23, 39, and 71 or;*

MS (Fire protection)(Ships built before 25th May 1980) regulations 1985 *regulations 10, 21, 35, 52 and 69.*

Most regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government web site:

www.iomshipregistry.com or by contacting marine.survey@gov.im

SOLAS Chapter II-2 Regulation 10 and the associated Manx Regulations require that a cargo ship carry a minimum of two sets of fire-fighting outfits complying with the requirements of the Fire Systems Code. This notice refers specifically to the requirements for the personal equipment to be provided under that Code.

The Code requires that the personal equipment shall consist of the following:

- a) Protective clothing of material to protect the skin from the heat radiating from the fire and from burns and scalding by steam. The outer surface shall be water resistant;
- b) Boots of rubber or other electrically non-conducting material; and
- c) Rigid helmet providing effective protection against impact.

Following a recent casualty investigation, it has become apparent that some vessels are being supplied with fire proximity suits (testing standard EN 531 or ISO 15538 Level 1 or their direct equivalents), which, whilst complying with the above requirements for open spaces, do not provide the wearer sufficient thermal protection from radiated heat if entering an enclosed space (includes machinery and accommodation spaces) where a fire is located.

The Isle of Man Ship Registry therefore strongly recommends for use in any area of the vessel, that "fire-fighting suits" comply as a minimum, with the standards specified in the following table (or their equivalent national or international standards) as this will give the designed protection in both open and enclosed spaces, and that equipment not meeting those standards listed be replaced as soon as possible.

Item designation	Regulation SOLAS 74 where "type approval" is required	Regulations of SOLAS 74 and the relevant resolutions and circulars of the IMO, applicable	Testing standards
Fire-fighter's outfit: protective clothing – (close proximity clothing)	— Reg. II-2/10, — Reg. X/3, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— Reg. II-2/10, — IMO Res. MSC.36(63)-(1994 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.97(73)-(2000 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— EN 469:2005, inc. A1:2006 and AC:2006 — EN 1486:2007, Or, — ISO 15538:2001 Level 2
Fire-fighter's outfit: boots	— Reg. II-2/10, — Reg. X/3, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— Reg. II-2/10, — IMO Res. MSC.36(63)-(1994 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.97(73)-(2000 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— EN ISO 15090:2006, — EN ISO 20344:2004, inc A1:2007 and AC:2005 — EN ISO 20345:2004 inc A1:2007 and AC:2007
Fire-fighter's outfit: gloves	— Reg. II-2/10, — Reg. X/3, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— Reg. II-2/10, — IMO Res. MSC.36(63)-(1994 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.97(73)-(2000 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— EN 659:2003, inc A1:2008 and AC:2009 — EN 60903:2003 (for conductivity only).
Fire-fighter's outfit: helmet	— Reg. II-2/10, — Reg. X/3, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— Reg. II-2/10, — IMO Res. MSC.36(63)-(1994 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.97(73)-(2000 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— EN 443:2008
Fire-fighter's outfit: Self contained compressed air breathing apparatus	— Reg. II-2/10, — Reg. X/3, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— Reg. II-2/10, — IMO Res. MSC.36(63)-(1994 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.97(73)-(2000 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— EN 136:1998 inc AC:2003 — EN 137:2006

Existing close proximity clothing stating "not suitable for fire entry" (or similar) may be used for protection when boundary cooling fires or for search and rescue in an enclosed space without a fire. **It should not** be used for search and rescue purposes or fire fighting within an enclosed space that also has a fire.

We would therefore urge shipowners and ships staff to check vessel's equipment in order they are aware of the correct use of the outfits supplied.

Isle of Man Ship Registry – February 2012

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give Legal Advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.