



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



CG-5431
Office of Vessel Activities
Domestic Compliance Division

MI Notice 01-10
June 8, 2010

Marine Inspection Notice

HILLERSAFE FIRE DETECTION SYSTEMS ON UNINSPECTED TOWING VESSELS

While conducting Industry Initiated Exams, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Inspectors and Towing Vessel Examiners have discovered HillerSAFE Fire and Bilge Flooding Alarm systems installed on board uninspected towing vessels that do not meet the requirements of Subchapter C. Hiller's literature (attached) advertises these systems as having been tested to Lloyds Register (LR) Test Approval System, Test Specification1 by Retlif Testing Laboratories.

Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 27, Subpart B – Fire Protection Measures for Towing Vessels, establishes requirements for fire detection on towing vessels. Specifically 46 CFR 27.203(a) requires each detector, each control panel, and each fire alarm (the fire detection system) to be Coast Guard approved or listed by an independent testing laboratory; EXCEPT that, if you use an existing engine-room monitoring system (with fire detection capability), only the detectors must be listed by the independent laboratory. 46 CFR 27.203 allows the use of existing engine-room monitoring systems (with fire detection capability) on towing vessels whose construction was contracted for before January 18, 2000.

USCG approved fire detection systems can be found under Approval Series 161.002 in MISLE and CGMiX at: <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/Default.aspx>. The regulatory intent of "listing by an independent testing laboratory" is to allow NFPA 72 compliant fire detection equipment without requiring the additional testing required for USCG type approval. There are three national independent laboratories providing listing or labeling programs for fire detection equipment complying with NFPA 72. These laboratories and their marks are as follows:

FM Approvals LLC (FM), phone: 781-762-4300
Their mark is the letters FM within a diamond above the word Approved.

Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc. (ITSNA), phone: 800-345-3851
Their mark is the letters ETL inside a circle with the letters US to the side. The word "listed" will break the bottom of the circle. The name INTERTEK will appear beneath the circle. There may be additional letters for coverage outside the US.

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), phone: 847-272-8800
Their mark is the letters UL inside a circle with the letters US to the side. There may be additional letters for coverage outside the US.

Retlif Testing Laboratory is accepted by CG-5214 for providing reports of tests to the marine environmental standards such as Lloyds Register (LR) Test Approval System, Test Specification 1. Retlif neither conducts the fire detection component tests nor provides a listing service for fire detection equipment.

The HillerSAFE Fire and Bilge Flooding Alarm System is not considered to be an engine-room monitoring system. Because it is not used regularly, a bilge alarm system cannot be considered as reliable as a system used to monitor the engines and critical machinery.

Hiller Systems Inc. is currently working with FM to conduct the required testing of the HillerSAFE system to be listed and/or Coast Guard approved. Consistent with the philosophy of CG-543 Policy letter 10-02, until this testing is complete, do not issue requirements to owners to remove HillerSAFE systems as long as they are operating properly. Instead, place an inspection note in MISLE, valid for one year, stating “This vessels fire detection system does not currently meet the requirements of 46 CFR 27.203(a). Inspectors/Examiners should not require this equipment to be removed until the testing is complete and a determination has been made on this system meeting the acceptable standards.” A towing vessel decal should not be issued until this issue is resolved.

CG-5214 will oversee the testing progress. Periodic updates on the progress of the HillerSAFE system testing will be given to Area and District Towing Vessel Coordinators. Once final determination has been made, an updated Marine Inspection Notice 01-10 will be distributed to the field with the testing outcomes and further guidance.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Mr. Patrick Lee in the Office of Vessel Activities, Domestic Compliance Division (CG-5431) at Patrick.j.lee@uscg.mil 202-372-1135 or Mr. Louis Nash at Coast Guard Headquarters Lifesaving and Fire Safety Division (CG-5214) at (202) 372-1388.

HillerSAFE

Fire & Bilge Flooding Alarm Control Panel

Features

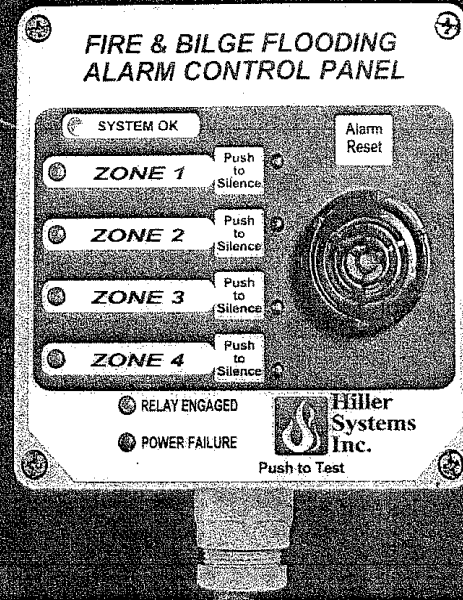
- 12 or 24 Volt D.C. Operation
- Compact Size: 5" x 5" x 2.5"
- Fully Supervised
- Sealed Membrane Switches
- Liquid-Tight Enclosures
- Surface or Flush Mount
- Integral Alarm and Silence Function
- Primary Power Loss Warning
- Output for Remote Audio Visual Alarm

Function-

The **HillerSAFE Fire and Bilge Flooding Alarm Panel** utilizes advanced technology for the detection of fire and overheat conditions as well as bilge flooding conditions. Each HillerSAFE Control Panel has the ability to monitor up to four separate zones simultaneously. Four zones means better hazard location and identification. Visit www.hillersystemsinc.com to learn more!

Each alarm zone is monitored for alarm or fault conditions, and all circuits are fully and automatically supervised. If any field wiring or detection devices are damaged, a 'Trouble' condition will be audibly and visually annunciated. An internal battery is continuously and automatically charged by the panel circuitry, and illuminates a 'Power Failure' L.E.D. when primary system power is lost, or degrades below 5 volts.

The HillerSAFE Control Panel and associated devices were successfully tested to Lloyds Register (LR) Type Approval System, Test Specification 1. The tests were performed by Retlif Testing Laboratories, Ronkonkoma, New York. Test report reference is Report Number R-8695, dated October 31st, 2000.



Monitors-

- Heat Detectors
- Manual Fire Alarm Pull Stations
- Bilge Flooding Sensors
- General Alarm Pull Stations
- Security Devices
- Any Contact Closure Device



ABS Cert. 01-N0228998-PDA



**Hiller
Systems
Inc.**