

U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY CENTER PLAN REVIEW GUIDELINE



REVIEW OF FIRE CONTROL PLANS

Procedure Number: H2-15

Revision Date: September 13, 2021

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Purpose

This Plan Review Guideline (PRG) provides the submitter with general guidance and information for the preparation and submission of fire control plans (FCP).

Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center (MSC) by e-mail or phone. Please refer to Procedure Number H2-15.

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1. Applicability

This Plan Review Guideline (PRG) is applicable to FCPs reviewed by MSC for vessels certified under 46 CFR Subchapters K or H and for foreign passenger vessels enrolled in the Initial Certificate of Compliance program.

2. References

- a. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, (SOLAS 74), as amended
- b. IMO Resolution A.952(23), “Graphical Symbols for Fire Control Plans”
- c. IMO Resolution A.654(16), “Graphical Symbols for Fire Control Plans”
- d. IMO Resolution A.1116(30), “Escape Route Signs and Equipment Location Markings”
- e. IMO Resolution A.756(18), “Guidelines on the Information to be Provided with Fire Control Plans & Booklets”

3. General Review Guidance

U.S. Vessels:

- a. If the plan was previously reviewed/approved by an Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), then it does not need to be submitted to the MSC for review.
- b. Ensure the IMO FCP symbols of reference (b), (c), or (d) are used in accordance with applicable regulations. (Subchapter H: 46 CFR 78.45, Subchapter I: 46 CFR 97.36)
- c. It is recommended that IMO FCP symbols be used on small passenger vessels; however, they are required if the vessel is certified for international voyages.

SOLAS Vessels:

- a. If the vessel will carry SOLAS certificates, then FCPs must comply with SOLAS Regulation II-2/15.2.4. Vessels built on or after January 1, 2004 should use the symbols found in reference (b). Vessels built on or after January 1, 2019 should use the symbols found in reference (d).

All Vessels:

- a. Ensure the plan is legible and understandable. The plan need not show every single fire detector and/or every single sprinkler head. One symbol can be used for a section or group of spaces.
- b. Ensure the FCP shows “A” and “B” Class bulkheads, fixed extinguishing systems, automatic sprinklers, and fire detection in accordance with the appropriate regulations.
- c. Ensure the bulkhead arrangements presented in the FCP are consistent with the vessel’s General Arrangement, Means of Escape, Structural Fire Protection, and Emergency Evacuation Plan.



4. Disclaimer

This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative, you may contact MSC, the unit responsible for implementing this guidance.