

MSC Guidelines for the Use of A-0 Rated Roller Shutters in Certain A-60 Bulkheads

Procedure Number: SOLAS-02

Revision Date: 4/5/2016

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References

- SOLAS II-2/9.4.1.1.2 (previously II-2/30.2)
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Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center by e-mail or phone. Please refer to Procedure Number: **SOLAS-02**.

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Reference Text

“The construction of doors and doorframes in “A” class divisions, with the means of securing them when closed, shall provide resistance to fire as well as to the passage of smoke and flame equivalent to that of the bulkheads in which the doors are situated, this being determined in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures Code.”

Guidance

Note: This guidance addresses shutters used to protect openings in a fire boundary (i.e. in lieu of doors). For guidance concerning moveable fire boundaries and shutters that are used as an equivalency to a bulkhead, please contact the MSC.

Openings in A-60 bulkheads, such as a galley pass-through, are often protected with steel roller shutters with a rating of A-0. These shutters when combined with (1) sprinkler protection on both sides of the shutter, (2) the requirements specified in SOLAS II-2/9.4.1.1.4, and (3) automatic closing upon detection of a fire either by a dedicated fusible link or by activation of a local smoke detector or sprinkler, provide resistance to the passage of flame and smoke of an “A” class assembly. Sprinkler or water MIST protection in close proximity to the assembly combined with the automatic closing functions of a fire door must be arranged to provide the thermal protection afforded by an “A-60” assembly.

Background

Roller shutters represent an efficient method for protecting an opening in an A-60 bulkhead. Rollers shutters which provide thermal protection required by the A-60 rating are not currently available. In certain circumstances, an A-0 assembly with cooling provided by water spray or MIST can prevent the spread of fire equivalent to an A-60 barrier. In order for this to be effective, the A-0 roller shutter must be closed and water spray must wet both the inner and outer surface of the roller shutter. Storage and other obstructions must remain well clear of the roller shutters to allow complete closure of the shutter, access for the water spray to wet the surface and provide a standoff distance from any combustible materials.

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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 The Marine Safety Center, who is responsible for implementing this guidance.