

# MSC Guidelines for the Use of Flammable Liquid & Gas Storage Cabinets

Procedure Number: SOLAS-05

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## References

- ❑ SOLAS 2014 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.3.2(11-14)
- ❑ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/26.2.2

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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-05**.

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## Reference Text

SOLAS II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2

(11) *Auxiliary machinery spaces, cargo spaces, cargo and other oil tanks and other similar spaces of moderate fire risk...* Auxiliary machinery spaces, as in category (10), which contain machinery having a pressure lubrication system or where storage of combustibles is permitted. ...

(12) Machinery spaces and main galleys

(13) *Store-rooms, workshops, pantries, etc ...* Lockers and store-rooms having areas greater than 4 m<sup>2</sup>, other than those spaces that have provisions for the storage of flammable liquids.

(14) Other spaces in which flammable liquids are stowed  
Paint lockers  
Store-rooms containing flammable liquids (including dyes, medicines, etc.)  
Laboratories (in which flammable liquids are stowed)

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## Guidance

In spaces where a limited supply of flammable liquids or gases is necessary for the practical utility of the space, it may be permissible to install an approved flammable liquid cabinet to stow small quantities of items for daily use. These cabinets must:

1. provide adequate thermal insulation to protect the contents from an external fire. This thermal protection must be at least at the level required by SOLAS II-2, Table 9.1 between a category 14 space and the space in which the cabinet is located;
2. be designed to contain leakage and spills; and
3. be gas/fume-tight.

Cabinets manufactured and approved to EN14470-1, Type 60 or Type 90 are

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acceptable. Cabinets meeting NFPA 30 or UL 1275, only provide protection for 10 minutes and should only be used in category 11, 12 or 14 spaces. In all cases cabinets must be suitable for the intended use as determined by the flag administration. When used, these lockers must be permanently mounted to the deck and indicated on the Fire Control Plan or otherwise be included in the ship's Safety Management System (SMS) and training program. The quantity and types of materials contained in these lockers must be consistent with the manufacturer's recommendations.

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## **Background**

Spaces other than category 14 spaces do not typically have the protections (for example: classified electrical fittings, ventilation and insulation) required for storing flammable liquids. However, the practical utility of certain spaces may necessitate the storage of a small quantity of ready-use flammable liquid or gas. This would include materials used frequently during operation where it is impractical for crew to travel to a centralized category 14 store room each time the materials are needed. As such, it may be permissible to store a small amount of these materials for daily use, not to exceed the storage capacity of a single locker of flammable liquids. Such storage should be in steel lockers designed for the purpose and provided with a means to safely contain and extinguish a fire involving these 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.