



REVIEW OF POOL MACHINERY SPACES

Procedure Number: SOLAS-24

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Purpose

The purpose of this Plan Review Guideline (PRG) is to provide clear guidance on the fire protection requirements of pool machinery spaces holding pool treatment chemicals.

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 SOLAS-24.

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1. Applicability

This PRG is applicable to SOLAS passenger ships carrying more than 36 passengers.

2. References

SOLAS II-2/9.2.2.3.2(13) (previously II-2/26.2.2(13))

“Store-rooms, workshops, pantries, etc.

Main pantries not annexed to galleys.

Main laundry.

Large drying rooms (having a deck area of more than 4 m²).

Miscellaneous stores.

Mail and baggage rooms.

Garbage rooms.

Workshops (not part of machinery spaces, galleys, etc.).

Lockers and store-rooms having areas greater than 4 m², other than those spaces that have provisions for the storage of flammable liquids.”

3. Background

Many of the pool treatment chemicals observed on recent new build cruise ships are strong oxidizers. While these chemicals are not flammable, they can exacerbate fire growth by generating additional oxygen when exposed to a fire. Additionally, these chemicals may also produce toxic fumes or corrosive by-products when heated or released in bulk form. The increased hazards that these chemicals pose, requires a greater level of fire protection than a category (10) space “tanks, voids, and auxiliary machinery spaces having little or no fire risk” provides.

4. Guidance

As far as practicable, spaces where oxidizing chemicals are stowed shall be in accordance with II-2/9.2.2.3.2(13). These spaces should also be protected with automatic fire suppression and detection as appropriate.

5. 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.