

MSC Guidelines for Review of Aluminum/GRP Plate Use

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References	<ul style="list-style-type: none">□ SOLAS II-2/13.4.1 (previously II-2/28.3.1)
Contact Information	<p>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-33.</p> <p>E-Mail: msc@uscg.mil Phone: (202) 795-6730 Website: http://homeport.uscg.mil/msc</p>
Reference Text	<p>“Means of escape from each machinery space in passenger ships shall comply with the following provisions...”</p>
Guidance	<p>Aluminum or GRP floor plates, grids, or walkways are not acceptable for use in escape routes.</p>
Background	<p>While not generally an issue in most accommodation areas, aluminum plates or grating can sometimes be found in machinery or other service spaces. The concern is twofold; first, that aluminum melts at temperatures typically found in most fires and, secondly, that aluminum does not appear to change its visual properties as it reaches its melting point. Thus, aluminum deck plates will not give any visual indication that they have completely lost their strength due to high heat, and could fail under the weight of an unsuspecting crewmember or firefighter.</p>
Disclaimer	<p>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.</p>