

MSC Guidelines for Review of Integrity of Two-Deck Spaces

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References

- SOLAS 2014 Cite: II-2/9.2.2.7.1
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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-52**.

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Reference Text

“Atriums shall be within enclosures formed of “A” class divisions having a fire rating determined in accordance with tables 9.2 and 9.4, as applicable.”

Guidance

For spaces spanning two decks, which therefore do not meet the definition of an atrium as per SOLAS II-2/3.3, deck integrity should be maintained for the upper deck level. Thus, the applicable deck integrity tables should be used to determine the bulkhead rating for all vertical boundaries above the first level of a two-deck space (the multiple deck space should be treated as the space below when using the deck tables).

Background

SOLAS is unclear as to what table to apply when determining boundary requirements for two-deck spaces where no continuous deck boundary is maintained at the intervening deck level.

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.