

# SC 251

## Controls of emergency bilge suction valve in periodically unattended machinery spaces (SOLAS regulations II-1/48.3)

(Oct 2011)

SOLAS Regulation II-1/48.3 reads:

Regulation 48  
Protection against flooding

*3 The location of the controls of any valve serving a sea inlet, a discharge below the waterline or a bilge injection system shall be so sited as to allow adequate time for operation in case of influx of water to the space, having regard to the time likely to be required in order to reach and operate such controls. If the level to which the space could become flooded with the ship in the fully loaded condition so requires, arrangements shall be made to operate the controls from a position above such level.*

### Interpretation

(A) 'Bilge injection system' is same as 'direct suction' referred in SOLAS Reg. II-1/35-1 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 and is understood to mean 'Emergency bilge suction', which is used to discharge overboard large quantities of sea water accumulated in engine room bilges using the main circulating pump or another suitable pump as permitted by 35-1 3.7.2.

(B) The requirements for the controls of the "valves serving a sea inlet, a discharge below the waterline or a bilge injection system" are not applicable to valves serving an emergency bilge system provided:

- (1) The emergency bilge valve is normally maintained in a closed position,
- (2) A non-return device is installed in the emergency bilge piping, and

(Note: A normally closed non-return valve with positive means of closing is considered to satisfy both (1) and (2) above.)

- (3) The emergency bilge suction piping is located inboard of a shell valve that is fitted with the control arrangements required by SOLAS Reg. II-1/48.3.

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Note:

1. This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships contracted for construction on or after 1 January 2013.
2. The "contracted for construction" date means the date on which the contract to build the vessel is signed between the prospective owner and the shipbuilder. For further details regarding the date of "contract for construction", refer to IACS Procedural Requirement (PR) No. 29.

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