

SC 253 (Dec 2011)

Fire resistance requirements for fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) gratings used for safe access to tanker bows (IMO Res. MSC.62(67))

Regulation

Tankers, including oil tankers as defined in SOLAS regulation II-1/2.12, chemical tankers as defined in regulation VII/8.2 and gas carriers as defined in regulation VII/11.2, should be provided with means to enable the crew to gain safe access to the bow even in severe weather conditions. For tankers constructed on or after 1 July 1998, the access should be by means of either a walkway on the deck or a permanently constructed gangway of substantial strength at or above the level of the superstructure deck or the first tier of a deckhouse which should:

...
.3 *be constructed of **fire resistant** and non-slip material;*

Interpretation

FRP gratings used in lieu of steel gratings for safe access to tanker bows shall possess:

- low flame spread characteristics and shall not generate excessive quantities of smoke and toxic products as per the FTP Code; and
- adequate structural fire integrity as per recognized standards*

after undergoing tests in accordance with the above standards.

* for example USCG Marine Safety Manual Vol. II, Para 5.C.6 - Level 3

Note:

This UI is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction from 1 January 2013.

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