SC 264 (Dec 2013) Non-combustible material as 'steel or equivalent' for ventilation ducts (SOLAS II-2, Reg. 9.7.1.1)

SOLAS II-2, Reg. 9.7.1 states:

7.1.1 Ventilation ducts shall be of steel or equivalent material. However, short ducts, not generally exceeding 2 m in length and with a free cross-sectional area not exceeding 0.02 m^2, need not be steel or equivalent subject to the following conditions:*

- *.1 subject to paragraph 7.1.1.2 the ducts are made of any material which has low flame spread characteristics;*
- *.2 on ships constructed on or after 1 July 2010, the ducts shall be made of heat resisting non-combustible material, which may be faced internally and externally with membranes having low flame-spread characteristics and, in each case, a calorific value† not exceeding 45 MJ/m^2 of their surface area for the thickness used;*
- *.3 the ducts are only used at the end of the ventilation device; and*
- *.4 the ducts are not situated less than 600 mm, measured along the duct, from an opening in an "A" or "B" class division including continuous "B" class ceiling.*

Interpretation

With respect only to SOLAS II-2/9.7.1.1, a ventilation duct made of material other than steel may be considered equivalent to a ventilation duct made of steel, provided the material is non-combustible and has passed a standard fire test in accordance with Annex 1: Part 3 of the FTP Code as non-load bearing structure for 30 minutes following the requirements for testing "B" class divisions.

NOTES:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies for ships contracted for construction from 1 July 2015.

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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