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Fire Door

(FTP Code sub-section 5.3 and Annex 1, Part 3 – Test for “A”, “B”, and “F” class divisions)

Regulation

FTP Code sub-section 5.3 reads:

“5.3.1 The case-by-case approval means approval where a product is approved for installation on board a specific ship without using a type approval certificate.

5.3.2 The Administration may approve products using the applicable test procedures for specific ship applications without issuing a type approval certificate. The case-by-case approval is only valid for the specific ship.”

FTP Code Annex 1 FIRE TEST PROCEDURES PART 3 - TEST FOR "A", "B" AND "F" CLASS DIVISIONS reads:

1 Application

Where products (such as decks, bulkheads, doors, ceilings, linings, windows, fire dampers, pipe penetrations and cable transits) are required to be "A" or "B" or "F" class divisions, they shall comply with this part.

*Products tested for use in buildings have similar classification markings. However, they do not correspond to the classes in marine use.

2 Fire test procedure

2.1 The products shall be tested and evaluated in accordance with the fire test procedure specified in resolution A.754(18). This contains test procedures also for windows, fire dampers and pipe and duct penetrations in its appendices.

2.2 Specimen sizes

2.2.1 For the purpose of this Code, the first sentence of paragraphs 2.1.1, 2.4.1 and 2.7.1 of the Annex to resolution A.754(18) is replaced by the following:

“The minimum overall dimensions of test specimen, including the perimeter details at the top, bottom and vertical edges, are 2,440 mm width and 2,500 mm height, except that the minimum overall dimensions of 2,440 mm in height and 4.65 m² in the exposed surface of the test specimen may be used in testing up to 31 December 1998. The approval expiry date is 31 December 2003 for approvals based on tests with such smaller test specimen.”

Note:

1. This Interpretation is implemented from 1 January 2022.
2.2.2 For the purpose of this Code, the first sentence of paragraphs 2.2.1, 2.5.1 and 2.8.1 of the Annex to resolution A.754(18) is replaced by the following:

"The minimum overall dimensions of test specimen, including the perimeter details at all the edges, are 2,440 mm width and 3,040 mm length, except that the minimum overall dimensions of 2,440 mm in length and 4.65 m² in the exposed surface of the test specimen may be used in testing up to 31 December 1998. The approval expiry date is 31 December 2003 for approvals based on tests with such smaller test specimen."

2.2.3 The specimen sizes shall be given in the test reports.

2.3 Where thermal radiation through windows is required to be limited, the window assembly may be tested and evaluated in accordance with appendix 1 of this part.

2.4 Where ceilings or linings are required to be continuous "B" class ceilings or linings they may be tested and evaluated in accordance with appendix 2 of this part.

3 Additional requirements

3.1 The integrity of class "B" constructions shall be achieved with non-combustible materials. Adhesives used in the construction of the specimen are not required to be non-combustible; however, for the purpose of this Code, they shall have low flame-spread characteristics.

3.2 Materials placed at "B" class panel joints for avoiding vibration or noise transmission shall be of low flame spread characteristics and fire tested with "B" class divisions along which they are used. However, such materials shall be non-combustible if they are necessary to support the non-combustible "B" class structure or to achieve the required integrity.

3.3 Doors and shutters, which are fitted above the bulkhead deck and which are required to meet both fire protection and watertight requirements, shall comply with the fire protection requirements as required in the Convention, for the divisions where they are installed. The watertight doors fitted below the bulkhead deck are not required to be insulated.

4 Other references

4.1 The non-combustibility of materials used in "A" and "B" class divisions shall be verified in accordance with part 1.

4.2 Where combustible veneers are allowed to be provided in "A" and "B" class divisions, the low flame spread characteristics of such veneers, if required, shall be verified in accordance with part 5.

Interpretation

1 Methods of evaluation and testing

For doors larger than those which can be accommodated in the standard specimen size (e.g., 2,440 mm wide and 2,500 mm high), as specified in part 3 of the FTP Code,

1. if such doors can be accommodated into a larger test furnace, it is recommended to conduct a test with the full size specimen of the door; or

2. it is recommended to use the following method for evaluation of the fire performance of the door and approval of the door.
2 Doors of marginally larger dimensions

2.1 A fire door of marginally larger dimensions than a fire-tested fire door may be individually assessed and accepted for a specific project with the same classification, provided all of the following is met:

1. dimensions (width, height) are not more than 15% above those of the tested door;
2. the surface area of the door is not more than 10% above that of the tested door;
3. the door design does not deviate in any other aspect from the one tested; and
4. the tested door has successfully satisfied both insulation and integrity criteria for the following times, as appropriate:

   - "B-0" 0 min insulation 36 min integrity
   - "B-15" 18 min insulation 36 min integrity
   - "A-0" 0 min insulation 68 min integrity
   - "A-15" 18 min insulation 68 min integrity
   - "A-30" 36 min insulation 68 min integrity
   - "A-60" 68 min insulation 68 min integrity.

2.2 If the door to be approved is larger than stated above and complies with the size requirements stated under section 3 below, the test shall also include additional instrumentation as specified in paragraph 3.4.2 below, or equivalent arrangement.

3 Doors larger than those in section 1 above, but not exceeding 50% in surface area

3.1 An engineering assessment can be used to extrapolate the fire test results of a door having a larger geometry than the tested door.

3.2 Such an assessment shall be used for verification only if the dimensions of the actual door are greater than the maximum permitted by the furnace (considering a furnace with an aperture of 2,440 mm width x 2,500 mm height) and the door involved has already been tested, with such dimensions, with satisfactory results in accordance with section 1 above, and the actual door does not exceed 50% in surface area.

3.3 The methodology used to extrapolate the fire tests results shall consider the following three steps:

1. standard fire test of the “specimen” to obtain reference temperature and structural displacements. Such a “specimen” may be either:

   1.1 a door already certified through the fire test which is identical in design to the door to be analysed (fire test to include additional instrumentation as per paragraph 3.4.2; or equivalent arrangement); or

   1.2 a specially-built specimen where the finite element method is to be performed to extrapolate the results of a specimen of an actual door having a size exceeding the maximum size allowed by the furnace of the testing laboratory; the specimen shall be a mock-up of the actual door, but having a size that fits in the furnace;
2. finite element analysis in paragraph 3.6, of the “specimen” to calibrate the thermal and mechanical boundary conditions of the FEM model, which are adjusted until the numerical and experimental temperature and displacement distribution compare satisfactorily; and

3. finite element analysis in paragraph 3.5, of the actual door carried out using the model calibrated as per paragraph 3.7, assuming that the differences in the geometry and dimensions between the actual door and the specimen door do not significantly influence the results.

3.4 Data to be submitted

3.4.1 In order for the analysis to be carried out, the following information shall be submitted:

1. detailed drawings of the door, the door frame and the closure and locking devices including the indications of clearances and interferences;

2. test report of the prototype used to extrapolate the results.

In this respect, additional instrumentation shall consist of two sets of three 1.6 mm diameter thermocouples fitted through the thickness of the leaf, at depths of 1/3 t, 1/2 t, 2/3 t. Such sets shall be fitted, on the upper part of the door, within a circle of 100 mm in diameter whose centre is 150 mm aside of the surface thermocouples fitted in the centre of the top quarters;

3. mechanical characteristics of all materials used for the construction of the door and its insulation:

   3.1 Young’s module;
   3.2 yield strength; and
   3.3 density; and

4. thermal properties:

   4.1 thermal expansion coefficient;
   4.2 thermal conductivity; and
   4.3 specific heat.

3.4.2 Since all these properties are temperature dependent, it is necessary that the required data be given as a function of the temperature range foreseen for the fire tests. Where it is not possible to obtain experimental data, an engineering evaluation shall be submitted with the supporting considerations for the proposed curves of variation of mechanical and thermal characteristics as a function of the temperature in the considered range.

3.5 Method of analysis

The comparison of the fire resistance of doors having larger geometry shall be considered in two steps:

1. evaluation of the heat transmission through the specimen thickness and of the temperature on the unexposed specimen surface; and

2. evaluation of the strength characteristics and of the displacements of the structural members of the specimen.
3.6 Heat transmission analysis

3.6.1 By carrying out finite element calculations, the histories over time of the heat transmission within the structural assembly are computed and the temperature is compared with the temperature experienced by the assembly represented in the standard fire test.

3.6.2 Based on suitable data for the temperature-dependent variables, an iterative procedure is used for the evaluation of thermal-mechanic properties.

3.6.3 The thermal boundary conditions of convecting and radiative type are:

\[ q_c = h_c (T_s - T_\infty) \]

and

\[ q_r = \sigma \varepsilon (T_s^4 - T_\infty^4) \]

where:

- \( q_c \) and \( q_r \): Convective and radiative heat flux, respectively
- \( h_c \): Convective heat transfer coefficient
- \( \sigma \): Stefan-Boltzmann constant
- \( \varepsilon \): Emissivity coefficient
- \( T_s \): Surface temperature
- \( T_\infty \): Furnace or ambient temperature.

3.6.4 The two equations can be included in an equivalent boundary condition:

\[ q = H_{eq} (\sigma, \varepsilon, T_s, T_\infty) (T_s - T_\infty) \]

where:

- the equivalent coefficient \( H_{eq} \) depends on the unknown surface temperature.
- However, it can be calculated as part of the finite element analysis using an emissivity coefficient appropriately calibrated with the fire test results.

3.6.5 The equivalent heat transfer coefficient can be assumed to be constant on the single exposed surface, as the furnace assembly built in accordance with the FTP Code gives uniformity of the temperature and heat flux within the furnace.

3.6.6 Alternatively, the temperature distribution measured on the specimen of the standard fire test can be directly applied on the finite element structural model taking into account the same time histories.

3.7 Structural analysis

3.7.1 Using the results of the heat transmission analysis and information on temperature-dependent material properties, the thermal stresses and deformations on the geometry are evaluated. When modelling the structural assembly, attention shall be paid to using a sufficient number of elements to account for the non-uniform temperature distribution within the member and to catch the non-linear temperature-dependent behaviour.

3.7.2 Once the model is prepared, the analysis is to be carried out stepwise. For each element, the incremental strain or deformation caused by a temperature increase is
calculated and a new stress level is obtained based on the stress-strain relationship applicable for that particular temperature increase.

3.7.3 The mechanical boundary conditions are to be congruent in order to represent the real interaction of the door with the external frame for the overall length of the test.

4 Larger doors exceeding 50% in surface area

4.1 For larger doors exceeding 50% in surface area, a full analysis based on SOLAS regulation II-2/17 shall be performed to assess the safety of the vessel.

4.2 The approach shall be based on the results of the fire test of the door having the maximum dimensions permitted by the furnace (considering a furnace with an aperture of 2,440 mm width x 2,500 mm height) according to the procedure described under section 3.
Fire resistant windows on tankers

Interpretation of 2010 FTP Code (MSC.307(88))

Annex 1, Part 3 - Test for “A”, “B” and “F” Class Divisions, Appendix 2 - Testing of windows, fire dampers, pipe and duct penetrations and cable transits, Paragraph 2.2 reads as follows:

A.I      Windows

2.2  Design

2.2.1  The bulkhead which includes the window shall be insulated to class "A-60" on the stiffened face, which shall be the face exposed to the heating conditions of the test. This is considered to be most typical of the use of windows on board ships. There may be special applications of windows where the Administration considers it appropriate to test the window with the insulation of the bulkhead to the unexposed face of the structural core, such as the window on front bulkhead of the tanker, or within bulkheads other than class "A-60".

Interpretation

Windows to be fitted at the forward bulkhead of accommodation block on tankers shall correspond to prototype subject to the “A” class standard fire test with the fire against its external side (i.e. the side which, after the installation on board, will be exposed to the weather). The insulation of the bulkhead used along with the window’s specimen shall be fitted on the unexposed face of the structural core.

(MSC.1/Circ.1203)

Note:

1. This Interpretation is implemented for approvals granted on or after 1 July 2023.
Testing and approval of “A” class divisions – fastening of insulation material and details of joints

Interpretation of paragraphs 1.6 and 7.5.1 of IMO Resolution A.754(18) and paragraphs 1.12 and 7.6.1 of 2010 FTP Code, Annex 1, Part 3, Appendix 1

Paragraph 1.6 of IMO Resolution A.754(18) reads as follows:

*The construction to be tested should be, as far as possible, representative of that to be used on board ships, including the materials and method of assembly.*

Paragraph 1.12 of 2010 FTP Code, Annex 1, Part 3, Appendix 1 reads as follows:

*The construction to be tested shall be, as far as possible, representative of that to be used on board ships, including the materials and method of assembly.*

Paragraph 7.6.1 of 2010 FTP Code, Annex 1, Part 3, Appendix 1 reads as follows:

*The surface temperatures on the unexposed face of the test specimen shall be measured by thermocouples located as shown in figures 7 and 8:*

.1 five thermocouples, one at the centre of the test specimen and one at the centre of each of the four quarters, all positioned at least 100 mm away from the nearest part of any joints and/or at least 100 mm away from the welds to any stiffeners;

.2 two thermocouples, one placed over each of the central stiffeners and for a bulkhead at 0.75 height of the specimen and for a deck at mid-length of the deck;

.3 two thermocouples, each placed over a vertical (longitudinal) joint, if any, in the insulation system and positioned for a bulkhead at 0.75 height of the specimen and for a deck at mid-length of the deck;

.4 when a construction has two differently orientated joint details, for example normal to each other, then two thermocouples additional to those already described in paragraph 7.6.1.3 above shall be used, one on each of two intersections;

.5 when a construction has two different types of joint detail, then two thermocouples shall be used for each type of joint;

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Note:

1. This Interpretation is to be implemented for approvals issued in accordance with IMO FTPC Part 3 from 1 July 2011.
.6 additional thermocouples, at the discretion of the testing laboratory or Administration, may be fixed over special features or specific construction details if it is considered that temperatures higher than those measured by the thermocouples listed above may result; and

.7 the thermocouples specified in subparagraphs .4 to .6 above for measurements on bulkheads, e.g., over different joint types or over joint intersections, shall, where possible, be positioned in the upper half of the specimen.

Paragraph 7.5.1 of IMO Resolution A.754(18) reads as follows:

The surface temperatures on the unexposed face of the test specimen should be measured by thermocouples located as shown in figures 7 and 8:

.1 five thermocouples, one at the centre of the test specimen and one at the centre of each of the four quarters, all positioned at least 100 mm away from the nearest part of any joints and/or at least 100 mm away from the welds to any stiffeners;

.2 two thermocouples, one placed over each of the central stiffeners and for a bulkhead at 0.75 height of the specimen and for a deck at mid-length of the deck;

.3 two thermocouples, each placed over a vertical (longitudinal) joint, if any, in the insulation system and positioned for a bulkhead at 0.75 height of the specimen and for a deck at mid-length of the deck;

.4 when a construction has two differently orientated joint details, for example normal to each other, then two thermocouples additional to those already described in 7.5.1.3 above should be used, one on each of two intersections;

.5 when a construction has two different types of joint detail, then two thermocouples should be used for each type of joint;

.6 additional thermocouples, at the discretion of the testing laboratory or Administration, may be fixed over special features or specific construction details if it is considered that temperatures higher than those measured by the thermocouples listed above may result; and

.7 the thermocouples specified in 7.5.1.4 to 7.5.1.6 above for measurements on bulkheads, e.g. over different joint types or over joint intersections, should, where possible, be positioned in the upper half of the specimen.
Interpretation

To demonstrate that the tested “A” class assemblies are representative of that used on board ships, the following details shall, as a minimum when applicable, be clearly indicated in test reports and included in type approvals:

− Type, thickness, density and number of layers of insulation material;
− Size, types, materials and fixing methods of pins and washers;
− Spacing between pins;
− Maximum spacing between pins and adjacent joints;
− Stepping of joints for multi-layers if applicable;
− Insulation and pinning details on and around stiffeners;
− Details of wire mesh, aluminium tape etc, if used in the test;
− The type approval test report shall contain the information required by 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 6.1 and 10.4 of resolution A.754(18);
− Type approval certificate shall refer to drawing numbers of the test sample.

(MSC.1/Circ.1435)
Testing and approval of pipe penetrations and cable transits for use in “A” class divisions (IMO FTP Code 2010 Annex 1 Part 3)

Regulation

IMO FTP Code 2010 Annex 1 Part 3 Appendix 1 item 1.13 reads:

*The designs of the specimens proposed in this appendix are considered to reflect the worst case situations in order to provide maximum usefulness of the classifications to end-use applications. However, the Administration may accept or request special test arrangements which provide additional information required for approval, especially of those types of constructions which do not utilize the conventional components of horizontal and vertical divisions, e.g., where cabins may be of a modular type construction involving continuous connections between bulkheads, decks and ceilings.*

Interpretation

Arrangement

“A”-class pipe penetrations and cable transits that are

a) constructed without structural sleeves of minimum 3 mm thickness and minimum 60 mm length welded or bolted to the division; and/or

b) constructed with removable, soft or intumescent filling material

are “*those types of constructions which do not utilize conventional components of horizontal and vertical divisions*” and are to be subject to additional testing and/or design criteria as described below:

Additional testing/design criteria

- Filling materials shall be adequately secured by bonded materials or mechanical means that cannot be removed without the use of tools in order to prevent damage by normal ship vibrations and pressures.

- The pipe penetration/cable transit shall not have any visible openings. It shall not be possible to manually penetrate any part of the penetration with a 6 mm gap gauge, as described in paragraph 7.10 of Appendix 1 of Part 3 to Annex 1 of the 2010 FTP Code.

NOTE

This Interpretation is implemented for approvals granted on or after 1 January 2016.
Approval

Penetrations in structural divisions shall not impair the structural strength of the division. The structural make-up of the penetration is to be fully described so that its use and the need for additional stiffening for the division can be fully assessed.