

**SC
268**(Mar
2014)**Arrangements for fixed hydrocarbon gas
detection systems in double-hull and double-
bottom spaces of oil tankers****SOLAS Chapter II-2, Regulation 4.5.7.3.1**

In addition to the requirements in paragraphs 5.7.1 and 5.7.2, oil tankers of 20,000 tonnes deadweight and above, constructed on or after 1 January 2012, shall be provided with a fixed hydrocarbon gas detection system complying with the Fire Safety Systems Code for measuring hydrocarbon gas concentrations in all ballast tanks and void spaces of double-hull and double-bottom spaces adjacent to the cargo tanks, including the forepeak tank and any other tanks and spaces under the bulkhead deck adjacent to cargo tanks.

Interpretation

1. The term “*cargo tanks*” in the phrase “*spaces adjacent to the cargo tanks*” includes slop tanks except those arranged for the storage of oily water only.
2. The term “*spaces*” in the phrase “*spaces under the bulkhead deck adjacent to cargo tanks*” includes dry compartments such as ballast pump-rooms and bow thruster rooms and any tanks such as freshwater tanks, but excludes fuel oil tanks.
3. The term “*adjacent*” in the phrase “*adjacent to the cargo tanks*” includes ballast tanks, void spaces, other tanks or compartments located below the bulkhead deck located adjacent to cargo tanks and includes any spaces or tanks located below the bulkhead deck which form a cruciform (corner to corner) contact with the cargo tanks.

NOTE:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be applied by IACS Societies on ships contracted for construction on or after 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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