GC31 Discharge test of dry chemical powder fire-extinguishing systems

(June 2020)

Interpretation of Paragraph 11.4.8 of the IMO International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (Resolution MSC.5(48) as amended by Resolution MSC.370(93))

IGC Code 2016 edition, Chapter 11, Paragraph 11.4.8 – Fire protection and extinction, Dry chemical powder fire-extinguishing systems - reads as follows:

11.4.8 After installation, the pipes, valves, fittings and assembled systems shall be subjected to a tightness test and functional testing of the remote and local release stations. The initial testing shall also include a discharge of sufficient amounts of dry chemical powder to verify that the system is in proper working order. All distribution piping shall be blown through with dry air to ensure that the piping is free of obstructions."

Interpretation

Testing arrangements are to involve the discharge using dry chemical powder from all monitors and hand hose lines on board, but it is not required that there is a full discharge of the installed quantity of dry powder. This testing can also be used to satisfy the requirement that the piping is free of obstructions, in lieu of blowing through with dry air all the distribution piping. However, after the completion of this testing, the system, including all monitors and hand hose lines, are to be blown through with dry air; but only for the purpose of the system subsequently being clear from any residues of dry chemical powder.

Note:

1. This Unified Interpretation is to be uniformly implemented by IACS Societies on ships constructed on or after 1 January 2021.

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