

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP SYSTEMS AND
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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF IMO SAFETY,
SECURITY, AND ENVIRONMENT-RELATED CONVENTIONS**

**Unified interpretation on suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere
testing instruments as referred to in SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1**

Submitted by IACS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes to apply the unified interpretation of MSC.1/Circ.1561 not only in respect of SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, but also to the suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments as required by SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1, as adopted by resolution MSC.291(87)

Strategic direction: 1.1

High-level action: 1.1.2

Output: 1.1.2.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: MSC 97/16/1 and MSC.1/Circ.1561

Introduction

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its ninety-seventh session, considered document MSC 97/16/1 (IACS) proposing the development of a unified interpretation on the suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, as adopted by MSC.380(94).

2 The MSC agreed that both calibration ashore and on board could be accepted as the suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments and that any pre-operational accuracy tests as recommended by the manufacturer are to be excluded from the scope of the interpretation. Based on the above, MSC 97 approved the *Unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation X-1/7* (MSC.1/Circ.1561).

Discussion

3 Since MSC 97, IACS has found that similar requirements exist regarding the provision of suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments in SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1, as follows:

"Tankers shall be equipped with at least one portable instrument for measuring oxygen and one for measuring flammable vapour concentrations, together with a sufficient set of spares. Suitable means shall be provided for the calibration of such instruments."

Proposal

4 IACS is of the view that the unified interpretation on the suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/7, which was approved as MSC.1/Circ.1561, could also be applied in the context of SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1. IACS has, therefore, developed the draft unified interpretation as set out in the annex to this document, which is based upon MSC.1/Circ.1561.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the foregoing and, in particular, the proposed draft unified interpretation in the annex, and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX

DRAFT UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF SOLAS REGULATION II-2/4.5.7.1

Provision of suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments

Compliance with the provision "suitable means shall be provided for the calibration of such instruments" in SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1, as adopted by resolution MSC.291(87), may be achieved by portable atmosphere testing instruments being calibrated on board or ashore in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the above consideration refers to the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments, as required by SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1, and not to any pre-operational accuracy tests as recommended by the manufacturer.
