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Circular

China Classification Society
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Attain: Relevant departments of the Headquarters of CCS, the Society's surveyors, Plan Approval Centers, related shipowners, ship management companies, shipyards and designers.

Interpretation on Provision of Fire-fighting Appliances on None Purpose-built Helideck where Helicopters Land or Conduct Hovering Operations on an Occasional or Emergency Basis

1 Definitions in this Interpretation

Helicopter facility is a helideck including any refueling and hangar facilities.

Helideck is a purpose-built helicopter landing area located on a ship including all structure, firefighting appliances and other equipment necessary for the safe operation of helicopters.

An none purpose-built helideck is the conventional structures (such as hatch cover, open decks) of the ships used as the deck where helicopters land or conduct hovering operations on an occasional or emergency basis.

2 Interpretation on provision of fire-fighting appliances on none purpose-built helideck where helicopters land or conduct hovering operations on an occasional or emergency basis

Considering that the hatch covers on bulk carriers are taken as the area where helicopters land or conduct hovering operations, they are used as none purpose-built helideck. Considering also that the navigation characteristics of convention ships and that picking up a pilot occurs only once a voyage, which may be deemed occasional, the fire-fighting appliances near the landing or hovering operation areas may be provided with according to SOLAS Reg. II-2/18.2, namely the applicable fire-fighting appliances mentioned in regulation 10 of Part C may be arranged near the operation areas of the deck where helicopters land or conduct hovering operations. Refer to the following for detail:

- 1) 1 to 2 portable foam applicator units complying with the provisions of Chapter 4 of FSS Code provided based on the arrangement of engine room (including 2 to 4 foam solution containers of 20 l);
- 2) at least 2 nozzles of dual-purpose type (spray/jet) and fire hoses with a length of not less than 20m;
- 3) at least 10 dry powder extinguishers and CO₂ extinguishers of a capacity of not less than

5 kg chosen from the portable fire extinguishers (including stores) provided onboard the ship (it is suggested that the design unit take into account the amount of dry powder extinguishers and CO₂ extinguishers needed for helideck area while considering the type of extinguisher provided onboard the ship);

- 4) 2 sets of fire-fighter's outfits.

3 Explanation

3.1 For ships with none purpose-built helidecks, in addition to picking up pilots and sick persons, the crew in need of work may also be deemed as occasional or emergency cases. In such cases, paragraph 2 of this Circular may be applied.

3.2 For new ships intended to install none purpose-built helidecks or existing ships intended to add none purpose-built helidecks, the structure and strength of the helideck shall be assessed and approved by CCS Plan Approval Center.

3.3 The following emergency apparatus and equipment shall be stored and provided with for immediate use near helicopter landing or hovering areas:

- .1 adjustable wrench;
- .2 blanket, fire-resistant;
- .3 cutters, bolt, 60 cm;
- .4 hook, grab or salving;
- .5 hacksaw, heavy duty complete with 6 spare blades;
- .6 ladder;
- .7 lift line 5 mm diameter and 15 m in length;
- .8 pliers, side-cutting;
- .9 set of assorted screwdrivers; and
- .10 harness knife complete with sheath.

3.4 Fire-fighting appliances, emergency apparatus and equipment which are used for none purpose-built helideck and are intended to be provided with onboard the ships shall be listed in Onboard Safety Management Manual. The requirements of the Manual shall also be met in use.

3.5 For none purpose-built helidecks, the helideck shall be marked in accordance with ICS "GUIDE TO HELICOPTER/SHIP OPERATIONS", taking into account its actual purpose.

4 Application

This Circular applies to all bulk carriers, ore carriers and oil tankers with none purpose-built helidecks used on an occasional or emergency basis. Once approved, other ships with similar conditions may also apply this Circular for reference. This Circular does not apply to purpose-built helidecks or helidecks with helicopter facilities.

5 Entry into force

This Circular shall take effect on the date of publication and shall be transmitted as soon as possible to the ship companies, design units and shipyards by the branches within their responsible area.

Should you have any question during the implementation of the Circulars, please contact:
Technical Management Dept. of the Headquarters.