

CCS Technical Information

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To: Shipping Companies

2024 Q2 USCG Enhanced Examination Program

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) will conduct the Enhanced Examination Program (EEP) for cargo ships from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. With a subject of engine room fire safety.

The USCG will conduct an enhanced exam of the following items in conjunction with PSC A (For ships first call in the U.S. ports) & PSC B (For ships not the first call in the U.S. ports) inspection:

1. Verify proper operation of at least one (1) fuel oil shutoff valve via remote operation*。 (SOLAS II-2/4.2.2.3.4)

“SOLAS II-2/4.2.2.3.4 Oil fuel pipes, which, if damaged, would allow oil to escape from a storage, settling or daily service tank having a capacity of 500l and above situated above the double bottom, shall be fitted with a cock or valve directly on the tank capable of being closed from a safe position outside the space concerned in the event of a fire occurring in the space in which such tanks are situated. In the special case of deep tanks situated in any shaft or pipe tunnel or similar space, valves on the tank shall be fitted, but control in the event of fire may be effected by means of an additional valve on the pipe or pipes outside the tunnel or similar space. If such an additional valve is fitted in the machinery space it shall be operated from a position outside this space. The controls for remote operation of the valve for the emergency generator fuel tank shall be in a separate location from the controls for remote operation of other valves for tanks located in machinery spaces.”

2. Verify proper operation of control of stopping power ventilation for machinery spaces from outside the machinery space. (SOLAS II-2/5.2.1.2)

“SOLAS II-2/5.2.1.2 Power ventilation of accommodation spaces, service spaces, cargo spaces, control stations and machinery spaces shall be capable of being stopped from an easily accessible position outside the space being served. This position shall not be readily cut off in the event of a fire in the spaces served.”

**3. Verify presence and condition of protection against hot surfaces (i.e., lagging).
(SOLAS II-1/26.1)**

“SOLAS II-1/26.1 The machinery, boilers and other pressure vessels, associated piping systems and fittings shall be of a design and construction adequate for the service for which they are intended and shall be so installed and protected as to reduce to a minimum any danger to persons on board, due regard being paid to moving parts, hot surfaces and other hazards. The design shall have regard to materials used in construction, the purpose for which the equipment is intended, the working conditions to which it will be subjected and the environmental conditions on board.”

* PSCOs are instructed to not test operation of fuel oil shutoff valves which would affect current operation of a ship’s machinery. In this event, PSCOs shall visually examine the material condition of each valve, but not instruct the ship’s crew to carry out operational testing.

All shipping companies are requested to prepare in advance and strengthen self inspection. Before entering U.S. ports, ship’s crews shall be familiar with the arrangement and operation of the remote control fuel oil shutoff valves and power ventilation stopping arrangement. Carried out operational tests. Additionally, crews should inspect lagging in engine rooms to ensure appropriate protection is provided against hot surfaces. And check the cleanliness of lagging.

If necessary, please contact your customer manager or Classed Ship in Service Department.

Contact Details of Classed Ship in Service Department:

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● **USCG Enhanced Examination Program**

Beginning in 2021, the Coast Guard initiated the Enhanced Exam Program (EEP). This program, similar to the Concentrated Inspection Campaigns (CICs) carried out by port state control MoUs. Each EEP will set a subject with a period of a quarter.

The goal of the EEP is to generate meaningful data on exam points of interest. Based on findings from the 2022 campaigns, adjustments to the routine PSC exam scope were made. As an example, verifying the condition of pilot/embarkation ladder(s) was added to the PSC exam scope on a long-term basis.

EEP subject of each year:

2021	2022	2023	2024
--	pilot and embarkation ladders	cyber security	immersion suits

ballast water compliance	immersion suits	voyage data recorders (VDRs)	engine room fire safety
fire and abandon ship drills	fuel oil shutoff valves	fire dampers	...
MARPOL Annex VI	ballast water	Additional liferaft arrangements	...