
F44 Fore peak ballast system on oil tankers

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The fore peak tank can be ballasted with the system serving other ballast tanks within the cargo area, provided:

- The fore peak tank is considered as hazardous;
- The vent pipe openings are located on open deck 3 m away from sources of ignition;
- Means are provided, on the open deck, to allow measurement of flammable gas concentrations within the fore peak tank by a suitable portable instrument;
- The sounding arrangement to the fore peak tank is direct from open deck;
- The access to the fore peak tank is direct from open deck. Alternatively, indirect access from the open deck to the fore peak tank through an enclosed space may be accepted provided that:
 1. In case the enclosed space is separated from the cargo tanks by cofferdams, the access is through a gas tight bolted manhole located in the enclosed space and a warning sign is to be provided at the manhole stating that the fore peak tank may only be opened after:
 - it has been proven to be gas free; or
 - any electrical equipment which is not certified safe in the enclosed space is isolated.
 2. In case the enclosed space has a common boundary with the cargo tanks and is therefore hazardous, the enclosed space can be well ventilated.

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