

Notice on Rectification for Opening Direction of Doors in Escape Routes in Accommodation Spaces

Relevant shipping companies:

During recent PSC inspections, as for the opening direction of doors in escape routes in accommodation spaces, some ships are questioned for noncompliance of conventions, and asked for rectification in a limited time period.

According to Ch. II-2/Reg.13 3.1.5 of 2000 SOLAS amendment, for ships the keels of which are laid on and after July 1st 2002, doors in escape routes in service spaces, control stations and accommodation spaces shall, in general, open in way of the direction of escape, except that:

1. individual cabin doors may open into the cabins in order to avoid injury to persons in the corridor when the door is opened; and
2. doors in vertical emergency escape trunks may open out of the trunk in order to permit the trunk to be used both for escape and for access.

Inner doors are often set in escape routes in service spaces, control stations and accommodation spaces for the purpose of sound insulation or heat preservation(as shown in the figure below). It won't be deemed as meeting the requirements of SOLAS if the inner door opens in the opposite direction of the escape direction.

To avoid being detained by PSC inspection for similar deficiencies, shipping companies are requested to conduct due inspections. For doors not complied with the foresaid requirements, rectification shall be made by changing their opening direction to the escape direction. For doors which is not imperatively required by SOLAS and the opening direction of which are difficult to change, they may be torn down.



In case of some major changes are necessary to the cabins or corridors of the ships due to the arrangement, relevant drawing and plans are to be submitted to CCS plan approval center for approval. After satisfactory approval, the site surveyor should have a confirmation of this hereafter.

Surveyors will conduct inspections for the foresaid opening direction of doors in escape routes in structural safety annual survey or any other survey with a larger scope.

Relevant shipping companies are requested to carry out self-checking and make rectification as necessary as possible, so to avoid ships being detained.

Hereby notify the above.

Classed Ship in Service Department

Classed Newbuildings Department

Technology Management Department

China Classification Society