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MSC.1/Circ.1695
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UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE FSS CODE

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 110th session (18 to 27 June 2025), approved the unified interpretation of paragraph 2.4.2.2 of chapter 9 of the FSS Code, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment, at its eleventh session (24 to 28 February 2025), in order to clarify acceptable spacings of combined smoke and heat detectors, with a view towards global and uniform implementation, as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretation as guidance from 1 January 2026 when applying paragraph 2.4.2.2 of chapter 9 of the FSS Code and to bring the unified interpretation to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE FSS CODE

Paragraph 2.4.2.2 of chapter 9 of the FSS Code

In determining the spacing of combined smoke and heat detectors, as required by paragraph 2.4.2.2 of chapter 9 of the FSS Code, the following calculation principles should be acceptable:

- .1 determination of the spacing based on the maximum distance of 9 m between detector centres, i.e. using hexagons of 5.2 m one-side length (see solution 1 below); and
- .2 determination of the spacing based on the maximum floor area using squares of 74 m² (see solution 2 below).

