

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP SYSTEMS
AND EQUIPMENT
7th session
Agenda item 20

SSE 7/20/5
9 December 2019
Original: ENGLISH
Pre-session public release:

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Validity of fire and component tests (MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1)

Submitted by IACS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes a corrigendum to the *Revised guidelines for the design and approval of fixed water-based fire-fighting systems for ro-ro spaces and special category spaces* (MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1) to allow fire and component tests previously conducted in accordance with the *Guidelines for the approval of fixed water-based fire-fighting systems for ro-ro spaces and special category spaces equivalent to that referred to in resolution A.123(V)* (MSC.1/Circ.1272) and MSC.1/Circ.1430, to remain valid for the approval of systems according to MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1, and to permit existing fixed fire-extinguishing systems approved and installed, based on the *Recommendation on fixed fire-extinguishing systems for special cargo spaces* (resolution A.123(V)), MSC.1/Circ.1272 and MSC.1/Circ.1430 to remain in service, as long as they are serviceable

Strategic direction, if applicable: 6

Output: Not applicable

Action to be taken: 8

Related documents: FP 55/WP.3 and MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1

Background

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 100th session, approved the *Revised guidelines for the design and approval of fixed water-based fire-fighting systems for ro-ro spaces and special category spaces* (MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1). Paragraph 3.2.2 of the annex to MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1 expanded on the design and installation provisions; however, no new technical requirements applicable to the fire and component test procedures were introduced.

2 It is recalled that in recommending to FP 55 the approval of the draft revised Guidelines, with a view to subsequent approval by MSC 90, the Working Group on Performance Testing and Approval Standards For Fire Safety Systems, in paragraph 7 of its report (FP 55/WP.3) stated the following:

"7 The Group, bearing in mind the above-mentioned provisional nature of the draft revised Guidelines and that existing fixed fire-extinguishing systems for special category spaces approved and installed based on resolution A.123(V) should be permitted to remain in service as long as they are serviceable..."

Discussion

3 Paragraph 4 of the "original" version of MSC.1/Circ.1430 stated:

"4 This circular supersedes MSC.1/Circ.1272, except that fire and component tests previously conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1272, remain valid for the approval of new systems. Existing fixed fire-extinguishing systems for special category spaces approved and installed based on resolution A.123(V) and MSC.1/Circ.1272 should be permitted to remain in service as long as they are serviceable."

4 Paragraphs 3 and 5 of MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1 state:

"3 The Committee noted that MSC.1/Circ.1430 superseded MSC.1/Circ.1272, except that fire and component tests previously conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1272, remain valid for the approval of new systems. However, existing fixed fire-extinguishing systems for special category spaces approved and installed based on resolution A.123(V), MSC.1/Circ.1272 and MSC.1/Circ.1430 installed before 1 January 2021 should be permitted to remain in service as long as they are serviceable."; and

"5 Member Governments are invited to apply the revised annexed Guidelines when approving fixed water-based fire-fighting systems for ro-ro spaces and special category spaces installed on or after 1 January 2021 and bring them to the attention of ship designers, shipowners, equipment manufacturers, test laboratories and other parties concerned."

5 Taken in isolation, paragraph 5 of MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1 disallows the acceptance of tests previously conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1272 or indeed with MSC.1/Circ.1430, for approvals issued after 1 January 2021.

6 However, noting that MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1 did not revise the actual test requirements, IACS considers the re-testing of fixed water-based fire-fighting systems for ro-ro spaces and special category spaces unnecessary.

Proposal

7 In order to address the issues discussed in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, IACS proposes that MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1 is corrected to align the text with that in MSC.1/Circ.1430, as follows (shown as tracked changes¹):

.1 paragraph 3 to be revised to read:

"3 The Committee noted that MSC.1/Circ.1430 superseded MSC.1/Circ.1272, except that fire and component tests previously conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1272, remain valid for the approval of new systems. ~~However, existing fixed fire-extinguishing systems for special category spaces approved and installed based on resolution A.123(V), MSC.1/Circ.1272 and MSC.1/Circ.1430 installed before 1 January 2021 should be permitted to remain in service as long as they are serviceable.~~"; and

.2 insert a new paragraph 6 that reads:

"6 This circular supersedes MSC.1/Circ.1272 and MSC.1/Circ.1430, except that fire and component tests previously conducted in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1272 or MSC.1/Circ.1430, remain valid for the approval of new systems. Existing fixed fire-extinguishing systems for special category spaces approved and installed based on resolution A.123(V), MSC.1/Circ.1272 and MSC.1/Circ.1430 installed before 1 January 2021 should be permitted to remain in service as long as they are serviceable."

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

8 Noting the decision of Council², the Sub-Committee is invited to recommend to MSC 102 that, as an urgent matter, the Secretariat be requested to issue a corrigendum to MSC.1/Circ.1430/Rev.1, as proposed in paragraph 7 above.

¹ Tracked changes are indicated using "strikeout" for deleted text and "grey shading" to highlight all modifications and new insertions, including deleted text.

² "... it being understood that minor corrections/issues could continue to be considered by the committees under the agenda item "Any other business";" (C/ES.27/D, paragraph 3.2(vi)).