

	CIRCULAR 2013-009		
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)		
	Fireman's Outfits – SOLAS amendments	Ref	SOLAS II-2 Reg 10 SOLAS II-2 Reg 15 MSC Res 338(91)

**Companies operating ships under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda,
Ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda,
Authorised Recognised Organisations (ROs)**

Introduction.

In November 2012 the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee adopted a number of amendments to SOLAS. Two of the amendments deal with fireman's outfits and this Circular is intended to provide early advice to shipowners and others of the requirement.

Changed and additional requirements to Regulation 10, Chapter II-2.

A new paragraph 10.4 is added after the existing paragraph 10.3 and which says:

"10.4 Fire-fighter's communication

For ships constructed on or after 1 July 2014, a minimum of two two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus for each fire party for fire-fighter's communication shall be carried on board. Those two-way portable radiotelephone apparatus shall be of an explosion-proof type or intrinsically safe. Ships constructed before 1 July 2014 shall comply with the requirements of this paragraph not later than the first survey after 1 July 2018."

The requirement clearly applies to new buildings from 1 July 2014 and to existing ships from 1 July 2018. For the avoidance of doubt ADOMS would confirm that the two way radiotelephone apparatus referred to in this regulation are additional to any required by Chapter III/regulations 6.2.1 and 6.4.1. The two way radiotelephone apparatus provided to meet this requirement should be stowed with the fireman's outfits and ready for use with them at any time. A check on the state of charge of the batteries in the units should be included in the routine inspections of fire fighting equipment.

Changed and additional requirements to Regulation 15 Chapter II-2 (Instructions, on-board training and drills).

An additional change is made to Regulation 15 of Chapter II-2 to insert a new paragraph 2.2.6 after the present paragraph 2.2.5. The new paragraph says:

"2.2.6 An onboard means of recharging breathing apparatus cylinders used during drills shall be provided or a suitable number of spare cylinders shall be carried on board to replace those used."

This amendment comes into force on 1st July 2014 and is intended to ensure that ships have spare filled air cylinders for use during drills without depleting the availability of cylinders for emergency use.

The regulation allows for ships to be fitted with either a means of re-charging used cylinders, or provided with extra cylinders over and above those carried in accordance with Ch. II-2 Regulation 10.10.2.5.

ADOMS would be of the view that, if the requirement is to be met by carrying additional air cylinders, there should be a minimum of two provided to allow for drills to be conducted with a two man fire fighting team.

Owners and managers are asked to ensure that they make any necessary changes to ensure that their ships comply with these requirements in good time.

May 2013