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## CIRCULAR Revised Guidelines for The Maintenance and Inspections of Fixed Carbon Dioxide Fire-Extinguishing Systems

The Marine Safety Committee (MSC), at its 103<sup>rd</sup> session, approved amendments to the Revised guidelines for the maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and appliances.

Notice to: [Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators](#) | [Surveyors/Auditors](#) | [Service Suppliers](#)

[C22004](#) | 20 January 2022

To address the need to clarify the hydrostatic testing regime for high-pressure CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders and to align the relevant requirements in the Guidelines with those in the Revised guidelines for the maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and appliances (MSC.1/Circ.1432), the Maritime Safety Committee, approved amendments and released the [MSC.1/Circ.1318/Rev.1](#).

At least biennially (intervals of 2 years ± 3 months) in passenger ships or at each intermediate, periodical or renewal survey in cargo ships, the following maintenance should be carried out, in addition to what was previously stated on the Circular:

- Before the **20-year anniversary and every 10-year anniversary thereafter, all cylinders should be subjected to a hydrostatic test**; and
- When cylinders are removed from testing, **the cylinders should be replaced such that the quantity of fire-extinguishing medium continues to satisfy the requirements of chapter 5 of the FSS Code**, subject to SOLAS regulation II-2/14.2.

A new paragraph 7 has been added requiring that **at least once every five years, internal inspection of all control valves should be performed**.

[DBS Publication on onboard maintenance and drills](#)

We have revised our [Publication](#) for the onboard maintenance and drills agenda to include the above requirements.

## Act now

Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators and Service Suppliers should take into consideration the above amendments on the guidelines for the maintenance and inspections of fixed carbon dioxide fire-extinguishing systems and ensure compliance on board their vessels.