



ABS NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

No.01/2022

DAMAGE CONTROL INFORMATION ONBOARD VESSELS BUILT AFTER 1 JANUARY 2009

BACKGROUND

SOLAS and the ABS Rules require Damage Control Information to be onboard each vessel for the guidance of the Master and crew. IMO Resolution [MSC.216\(82\)](#) formalized the requirement to place damage control information (damage control plan and damage control booklet) on all vessels. This was incorporated in the SOLAS, 2009 Consolidated Edition. Subsequently, the ABS Steel Vessel Rules were updated in 2015 to require the submission of Damage Control Information for all vessels.

Recent activities of Port State Control authorities have emphasized the importance of quick access to damage control information by crews. The below information provides guidance on confirming vessel compliance for this requirement.

APPLICATION

Amendments to SOLAS adopted by IMO Resolution [MSC.216\(82\)](#) entered into force on 1 January 2009, establishing the requirement for damage control information to be provided onboard all vessels. Several IMO circulars provide further guidance on this subject:

[MSC/Circ.919](#)

Guidelines for Damage Control Plans

[MSC.1/Circ.1245](#)

Guidelines for Damage Control Plans and Information to the Master

[MSC.1/Circ.1570](#)

Amendments to Section 3 of the Guidelines for Damage Control Plans and Information to the Master (MSC.1/Circ.1245)

KEY NOTES

- Effective Date : 1 January 2009
- Applicable Vessel Types : All
- Required Actions: Provide Damage Control Information on the Navigating Bridge for Guidance of the Crew
- References:
 - IMO Resolution MSC.216(82)
 - SOLAS Chapter II-1, Part B-4 Regulation 19
 - IMO MSC Circulars 919, 1245 and 1570
 - ABS Steel Vessel Rules, 2015, 3-3-1/7 – Damage Control Information

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The SOLAS requirement is to have the Damage Control Information located onboard for the guidance of the Master and crew. The complete Regulation is listed at the end of this bulletin. At the request of the owner, this information may be reviewed by Class prior to being placed onboard.

SURVEYS

For each ABS-classed vessel affected, a Facility Comment has been added to each vessel's status regarding this requirement. Once the attending ABS Surveyor verifies the presence of the Damage Control Information onboard, the Facility Comment will be removed.

REQUIRED ACTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Owners and operators are encouraged to confirm that the required Damage Control Information is onboard each vessel built on or after 1 January 2009.

If this information is not onboard, it may become a deficiency during a Port State Control inspection.

ABS ASSISTANCE

Owners/operators may contact their local ABS engineering or survey office for any questions or additional guidance.

SOLAS CHAPTER II-1, PART B-4, REGULATION 19

PART B-4 STABILITY MANAGEMENT

Regulation 19 Damage control information

- 1 There shall be permanently exhibited, or readily available on the navigation bridge, for the guidance of the officer in charge of the ship, plans showing clearly for each deck and hold the boundaries of the watertight compartments, the openings therein with the means of closure and position of any controls thereof, and the arrangements for the correction of any list due to flooding. In addition, booklets containing the aforementioned information shall be made available to the officers of the ship.*
- 2 Watertight doors in passenger ships permitted to remain open during navigation shall be clearly indicated in the ship's stability information.
- 3 General precautions to be included shall consist of a listing of equipment, conditions, and operational procedures, considered by the Administration to be necessary to maintain watertight integrity under normal ship operations.
- 4 Specific precautions to be included shall consist of a listing of elements (i.e. closures, security of cargo, sounding of alarms, etc.) considered by the Administration to be vital to the survival of the ship, passengers and crew.
- 5 In case of ships to which damage stability requirements of part B-1 apply, damage stability information shall provide the master a simple and easily understandable way of assessing the ship's survivability in all damage cases involving a compartment or group of compartments.**

* Refer to the Guidelines for damage control plans (MSC/Circ.919).

** Refer to the guidelines to be developed by the Organization.

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