ABS REGULATORY NEWS
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LETTER TO INDUSTRY: GUIDANCE ON LADDERS AND STAIRWAYS PROVIDING MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM ENGINE ROOMS

This notice details recent Port State Control (PSC) findings relating to the design and installation of heat shielding on ladders forming part of the escape route from machinery spaces of category A.

REQUIREMENT

SOLAS Chapter II-2 Regulation 13.4.2.4, Inclined Ladders and Stairways, states:

"For ships constructed on or after 1 January 2016, all inclined ladders/stairways fitted to comply with paragraph 4.2.1 with open treads in machinery spaces being part of or providing access to escape routes but not located within a protected enclosure shall be made of steel. Such ladders/stairways shall be fitted with steel shields attached to their undersides, such as to provide escaping personnel protection against heat and flame from beneath."

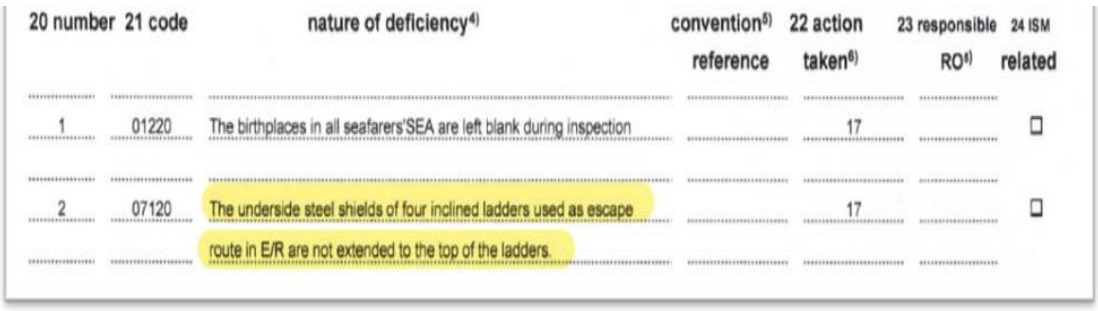
KEY NOTES

Ladders are to be designed and constructed with steel shields attached to their undersides such as to provide continuous protection against heat and flame from deck to deck.

References:
SOLAS Chapter II-2 Regulation 13.4.2.4 Inclined Ladders and Stairways

FINDINGS FROM PSC INSPECTORS

PSC Inspectors may issue a deficiency against 07120, Means of Escape, when there exists a gap in the heat shielding between the ladder and the deck it serves.



20 number	21 code	nature of deficiency[4]	convention[5] reference	22 action taken[6]	23 responsible RO[9]	24 ISM related
1	01220	The birthplaces in all seafarers'SEA are left blank during inspection		17		☐
2	07120	The underside steel shields of four inclined ladders used as escape route in E/R are not extended to the top of the ladders.		17		☐





GUIDANCE ON COMPLIANCE

The steel shields attached to the undersides of ladders/stairways in category A machinery spaces being part of or providing access to escape routes which are not located within a protected enclosure, are to be extended to cover any gap between ladders/stairways and platforms to provide escaping personnel with protection against heat and flame from beneath.

Where the extension of this steel shield, as fitted or constructed with the ladder, is not possible due to the design and construction of the connection between the inclined ladders/stairways and ship's platforms/decks, an additional steel shield should be fitted underneath to provide protection for any gap. If design or installation constraints make it impracticable to eliminate a gap, gaps smaller than 65 mm may be accepted. The installed steel shields should not interfere with the safe passage of personnel.

ABS RECOMMENDATION

Ship owners or operators are invited to review the insights provided in this letter and take proactive steps as necessary to provide the necessary protection for the inclined ladders and stairways being described in SOLAS II-2, Reg.13.4.2.4.

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