

"Don't Cure, Prevent!"

PaSea Circular 03/2017

Subject: Fire-fighting training & drills – a challenge to deal with!!

Case: During a PSC inspection conducted at Newcastle (Australia) recently, a vessel was detained when it was noticed by the PSC Officer that seafarers were not familiar with the vessel's existing fire fighting system.

The exact reasoning for the detention (code 30) was:

"Key personnel not familiar with operation and critical information displayed on fire control panel. Fire alarms and local isolated."

According to **SOLAS Chapter II-2, Reg. 15**, training of the crew regarding the use of the ship's fire-extinguishing systems and appliances is mandatory.

- **SOLAS Chapter II-2, Reg. 15, 2.2.1.** Crew members shall be trained to be familiar with the arrangements of the ship as well as the location and operation of any fire-fighting systems and appliances that they may be called upon to use.
- **SOLAS Chapter II-2, Reg. 15, 2.2.4.** On-board training in the use of the ship's fire-extinguishing systems and appliances shall be planned and conducted in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS regulation III /19.4.1.



SUGGESTION

To prevent lack of familiarization with some of the vessel's vital systems the following measures are suggested:

- ✓ Controls to be in place to ensure that the crew are effectively implementing the Company's procedures and are familiar with their fire fighting duties.
- ✓ Randomly request evidence of the fire drills conducted on board.
- ✓ Periodically assess crew performance ensuring that high competency standards are maintained.
- ✓ The Company could also organize Safety Campaigns & Bulletins, at regular intervals, dedicated to the familiarization with the fire-fighting equipment and drills with a view to empower the onboard readiness in case of an emergency. The performance of regular safety campaigns dedicated to fire fighting equipment and drills aids with onboard readiness in case of emergency.
- ✓ Vessel's fire fighting systems should be part of the fire fighting manual.
- ✓ Training should be performed on how to reach the control fire panel in case of excessive smoke in the room. Additional training should be delivered on how to evacuate the accommodation area or enclosed spaces and assist others in case of excessive smoke due to fire.
- ✓ Behavioral Based Audits should be carried out with the aim to assess and evaluate the performance during drills.
- ✓ Encourage the seafarers to report weak points monitored during drills.
- ✓ Ensure that the instructions on the use of the fire fighting system are at least in the ship's working language.

Please contact us to find out how Prevention at Sea can assist you!

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