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**UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE APPROVAL OF
FIXED WATER-BASED LOCAL APPLICATION FIRE-FIGHTING SYSTEMS
(MSC/CIRC.913)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-seventh session (28 May to 6 June 2003), with a view to ensuring uniform application of the Guidelines for the approval of fixed water-based local application fire-fighting systems (MSC/Circ.913), containing vague wording which is open to diverging interpretations, approved the unified interpretations relating to fixed water-based local application fire-extinguishing systems, set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying relevant provisions of the aforementioned guidelines and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE APPROVAL OF FIXED WATER-BASED LOCAL APPLICATION FIRE-FIGHTING SYSTEMS (MSC/CIRC.913)

General interpretations

For the application of these Guidelines, the terms related to location are clarified as follows:

- .1 *Protected space* is a machinery space where a local application fire-fighting system (hereinafter, referred to as “the system”) is installed.
- .2 *Protected area* is an area (an installation or a part of installation) within a protected space which is required to be protected by the system.

3 Principal requirements for the system*

Interpretation to paragraph 3.2

The activation of the system should not require engine shutdown, closing fuel oil tank outlet valves, evacuation of personnel and sealing of the space. Any of these actions would lead to loss of electrical power or reduction of manoeuvrability. Paragraph 3.2 is not intended to place requirements on electrical equipment.

Interpretation to paragraph 3.8

When the nozzle direction is intended not to be vertically downward, in addition to the type approval test in accordance with MSC/Circ.913, tests should be carried out in the conditions of actual direction of nozzles to verify the fire-extinguishing capabilities equivalent to that specified in MSC/Circ.913.

Interpretation to paragraph 3.9

This minimum rating should be applied only to the components in the protected space.

* Refers to paragraph 3 of the Guidelines for the approval of fixed water-based local application fire-fighting systems, as annexed to MSC/Circ.913.