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| <b>Title</b> | MSC Circulars / MSC/Circ.387 |
| <b>Note</b>  | Revise MSC/Circ.353          |

## **MSC/Circ.387**

### **REVISED GUIDELINES FOR INERT GAS SYSTEM**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee at its forty-eighth session adopted amendments to sections 8 and 12 of the Guidelines for Inert Gas Systems (MSC/Circ.282).

2 The Revised Guidelines, as amended, and with references relating to regulation II-2/62 of the 1981 SOLAS Amendments were attached in the Annex to [MSC/Circ.353](#).

3 The Maritime Safety Committee at its fiftieth session adopted the revised section 5.5 - cargo discharge - of the revised Guidelines. The revised section 5.5 is attached at Annex.

4 Member Governments are invited to give effect to the revised section and to replace this section in the Revised Guidelines for Inert Gas System ([MSC/Circ.353](#)).

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### **ANNEX**

#### **REVISED SECTION 5.5 OF MSC/CIRC.353 - "REVISED GUIDELINES FOR INERT GAS SYSTEMS"**

"5.5 Cargo transfer and cargo sampling

5.5.1 Ullaging devices of the closed type should be used to avoid the opening of ullage ports.

5.5.2 However, it may be necessary to infrequently relieve the inert gas pressure in the cargo tanks in certain occasions to permit manual tank gauge or cargo sampling before or after cargo is transferred. If this is done, no cargo or ballasting operation is to be undertaken and a minimum number of small tank openings are to be uncovered for as short a time as necessary to enable these measurements to be completed. Manual gauging or cargo sampling may be performed during the following four periods:

- .1 At the loading port, prior to cargo loading.
- .2 At the loading port, after cargo loading.
- .3 At the discharge port, prior to cargo discharge.
- .4 At the discharge port, after cargo discharge.

5.5.3 The tanks should then be re-pressurized immediately after the measurements or cargo samples have been taken.

5.5.4 If the tank is opened prior to cargo transfer, cargo transfer should not be commenced until all the conditions have been checked and are in order. Similarly, if the tank is opened after cargo transfer, normal ship operations should not be commenced until all the conditions have been checked and are in order.

5.5.5 During cargo transfer the oxygen content and pressure of the inert gas in the inert gas main should be continuously recorded (see regulation 62.16.1.1 and .2)."

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