



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

**Marine Notice**

**No. 7-041-2**

**Rev. Mar/2018**

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**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Hot Work**

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2014, as amended
  - (b) **IMO Circular [MSC/Circ.1084](#)**, *Principles of Hot Work on Board All Types of Ships*, issued 13 June 2003
  - (c) **RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#))**
  - (d) **RMI Marine Notice [2-011-13](#)**, *International Safety Management (ISM) Code*
  - (e) **RMI Marine Notice [7-041-1](#)**, *Entering Enclosed Spaces - Safety Precautions*

**PURPOSE:**

This Notice sets out the requirements for hot work. It has been extensively revised to include all ships, not just tank ships and combination carriers. It supersedes RMI Marine Notice 7-041-2, Rev. 10/06.

**APPLICABILITY:**

This Notice applies to all RMI-flagged ships<sup>1</sup>, on which “hot work” is to be conducted.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Cargo area** is that part of the ship containing cargo holds, cargo tanks and slop tanks as well as pump-rooms, cofferdams, ballast and void spaces adjacent to cargo tanks and also deck areas throughout the entire length and breadth of the part of the ship over the above-mentioned spaces, as defined by SOLAS II-2, Regulation 3.6.

**Hot Work** means all work, regardless of where it is performed on board a ship, involving sources of ignition or temperature sufficiently high enough to cause the ignition of a flammable gas

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<sup>1</sup> A **ship** means a vessel of any type whatsoever operating in the marine environment and includes hydrofoil boats, air cushion vehicles, submersibles, yachts, floating craft and fixed or floating platforms.

mixture. This includes, but is not limited to, any work requiring the use of electric arc or gas welding equipment, cutting burner equipment or other forms of naked flame, as well as heating or spark generating tools which are not certified for use in hazardous areas.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### **1.0 Hot Work Procedures**

1.1 Hot work procedures must be developed based on MSC/Circ.1084, *Principles for Hot Work on Board All Types of Ships*. The procedures must be incorporated into the Safety Management System (SMS) of the ship where such systems are required. (See RMI Marine Notice [2-011-13](#), *International Safety Management (ISM) Code*, and RMI Yacht Code ([MI-103](#)) §1.11.)

1.2 The procedures must ensure that:

1.2.1 any hot work is justified and deemed necessary for the safety and/or the immediate operation of the ship and that all viable alternatives have been considered;

1.2.2 the hot work policy supports a permit-to-work system that is easily understandable to the crew;

1.2.3 a risk assessment has been conducted to consider all hazards, including but not limited to:

.1 entering enclosed spaces if applicable to the job (See RMI Marine Notice [7-041-1](#), *Entering Enclosed Spaces-Safety Precautions*);

.2 the type of cargo being carried;

.3 surrounding hazards near the work area (e.g. ventilator heads);

.4 whether a fitting can be removed from a hazardous cargo area before hot work is performed;

.5 availability of local fire-fighting equipment;

.6 the anticipated duration of the work; and

.7 the appointment of a suitably qualified responsible officer-in-charge.

1.2.4 the Master maintains overriding authority and discretion to take actions deemed necessary in accordance with [MI-108](#), §7.41.1.

1.3 Industry guidance appropriate to the ship type is to be utilized when developing the hot work procedures. This guidance includes, but is not limited to, the most recent versions of:

- 1.3.1 OCIMF, *Guidelines on Safety Management Systems for Hot Work and Entry into Enclosed Spaces*;
- 1.3.2 ISGOTT, *International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals (ISGOTT)*, Chapter 9, *Management of Safety and Emergencies*, and Chapter 10, *Enclosed Spaces*;
- 1.3.3 ICS, *Tanker Safety Guide (Chemicals)*;
- 1.3.4 ICS, *Tanker Safety Guide (Liquefied Gas)*;
- 1.3.5 BLU Code, *The Code of Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers*; and
- 1.3.6 ILO publication, *Accident prevention on board ship at sea and in port*.

## **2.0 Prohibition on Hot Work**

- 2.1 Hot work within the cargo area is prohibited on ships that are carrying or have carried a flammable substance or those that emit flammable vapors, except when the process is strictly controlled in accordance with the ship's hot work procedures.