



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

Circular Number: 21 Revision: 1 Page: 1 of 2 Date: 18 December 2017

Testing Arrangements for Watertight Compartments

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-fifth session, confirmed that there was no need to amend International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulation II-1/11 or to develop any associated guidelines, as the safety level is sufficient. Consequently, it was concluded that International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Unified Requirement (UR) S14 on the testing procedures of watertight compartments was available for any Flag Administration to use on a case-by-case basis as an alternative/equivalent to SOLAS regulation II-1/11.
- 1.2 IACS have now issued Revision 6 of UR S14 for application to ships contracted for construction on or after 01 January 2018. The revised UR now contains two (2) parts:
 - PART A SOLAS Ships (including Common Structural Rules for Bulk Carriers & Oil Tankers)
 - PART B Non-SOLAS Ships and SOLAS Exempt/Equivalent Ships

2.0 Instructions

- 2.1 Paragraphs 2 and 3 of SOLAS regulation II-1/11 require that the forepeak, double bottom (including duct keels) and inner skins shall be tested with water to a head corresponding to the requirements of regulation 10.1. Furthermore, tanks which are intended to hold liquids, and which form part of the watertight subdivision of the ship, shall be tested for tightness and structural strength with water to a head corresponding to its design pressure. The water head is in no case to be less than the top of the air pipes or to a level of 2.4 meters above the top of the tank, whichever is the greater.
- 2.2 PART A of IACS UR S14 Rev.6 is in compliance with SOLAS regulation II-1/11 and may therefore be applied by Recognized Organizations (ROs) on Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) flag vessels without further authorization from the RMI Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator").

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- 2.3 The Administrator may accept, on a case-by-case basis, the procedures contained in PART B of IACS UR S14 Rev.6 to be applied as an equivalent to the testing of a space or tank as required by SOLAS regulation II-1/11, provided it receives the ship owner's and the RO's acceptance for PART B of IACS UR S14 Rev.6 to be applied. Additionally, any of the RO's or shipowner's past experience of the shipyard's work in following such alternative methods should accompany the relevant application/request.
- 2.4 The RO and the shipyard shall ensure and be fully satisfied with the water tightness and structural strength of all the boundaries of the space(s) or tank(s).
- 2.5 Where testing is carried out in accordance with PART B of IACS UR S14 Rev.6, the RO shall provide a written report of the testing results in order for the Administrator to communicate the results to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as required by SOLAS Chapter I Regulation 5.
