



Maritec Tanker Management Pvt Ltd

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MAINTENANCE BULLETIN

73/2019

Date: 09th Sept 2019.

TO: **All Panama & Malta Registered Fleet**

SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION OF PORTABLE FIRE FIGHTING APPLIANCES

The Maintenance, Inspection of Fire-Protection System and Appliances should be carried out as per guidelines given in Panama Circular – MMC 281 for Panama registered vessels and as per Transport Malta Technical Notice SLS.6 Rev.3 for Malta registered vessels.

All fire protection system and appliances should be, at all times, in good order and readily available for immediate use while the ship is in service.

Some part of maintenance procedures and inspections may be performed by competent crew members who have completed an advanced firefighting training course as per STCW 2010, Sec A-VI/3 certifies competence to inspect and service fire-detection and fire-extinguishing systems and equipment.

Balance part of maintenance procedures and inspections should be performed by persons specially trained in the maintenance of such systems.

The onboard maintenance plan should indicate which parts of the recommended inspection and maintenance are to be completed by trained personnel (sec 1.2.2 of MMC 281 & Technical Notice SLS.6 Rev.3).

This circular designates Chief Engineer onboard to carry out the **annual** maintenance and inspection of following firefighting appliances, which was till now carried out by external parties.

- All Portable fire extinguishers (For Malta flag - Annual servicing of permanently pressurized extinguishers should be carried out by shore facility. Onboard servicing and inspection is restricted to non-permanently pressurized type)
- SCBA Sets
- EEBD's
- Wheeled Mobile fire extinguishers
- Fixed gas fire-extinguishing systems



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Annual inspections shall include the following checks:

Portable & Wheeled fire extinguishers:

Checks should be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and must include minimum the following:

- a. **Safety clip and indicating devices** - Check to see if the extinguisher may have been operated.
- b. **Pressure indicating device** - Where fitted, check to see that the pressure is within limits. Check that dust covers on pressure indicating devices and relief valves are in place.
- c. **External examination** - Inspect for corrosion, dents or damage which may affect the safe operation of the extinguisher.
- d. **Weight** - Weigh the extinguisher and check the mass compared to the fully charged extinguisher.
- e. **Hose and nozzle** - Check that hoses and nozzles are clear and undamaged.
- f. **Operating instructions** - Check that they are in place and legible.
- g. **Water and foam charges** - Remove the charge to a clean container if to be reused and check if it is still suitable for further use. Check any charge container.
- h. **Powder charges** - Examine the powder for reuse. Ensure that it is free flowing and that there is no evidence of caking lumps or foreign bodies.
- i. **Gas cartridge** - Examine for damage and corrosion.

EEBD's

Checks should be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and must include minimum the following:

- a. **Tampering** – Check for tampering of the EEBD unit
- b. **Read the Pressure Gauge:** The tip of the needle on the gauge is normally in the green zone. If the needle is in the red or on the white zero pressure mark, remove the EEBD from service immediately. If the view of the gauge is obstructed, the EEBD must be removed from service.
- c. **Visually inspect the apparatus for indications of high force impacts** – These includes
 - Case cracked, burned, deformed or excessively worn.
 - Excessive gap between the Cover and Base.
 - Damaged Latch or Cover Band.
 - Dirt, debris or moisture visible through the gauge window.
 - Broken belt loops.



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SCBA:

Checks should be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and must include minimum the following:

Checks - check all breathing apparatus face masks and air demand valves are in serviceable condition

Fixed gas fire-extinguishing systems (CO2)

Checks should be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and must include minimum the following:

- Visually inspect all accessible components for proper condition;
- Externally examine all high pressure cylinders for evidence of damage or corrosion;
- Check the hydrostatic test date of all storage containers;
- Functionally test all fixed system audible and visual alarms;
- Verify all control/section valves are in the correct position;
- Check the connections of all pilot release piping and tubing for tightness;
- Examine all flexible hoses in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations;
- Test all fuel shut-off controls connected to fire-protection systems for proper operation;
- The boundaries of the protected space should be visually inspected to confirm that no modifications have been made to the enclosure that have created uncloseable openings that would render the system ineffective; and
- If cylinders are installed inside the protected space, verify the integrity of the double release lines inside the protected space, and check low pressure or circuit integrity monitors on release cabinet, as applicable.

The certificate for annual maintenance, inspection of portable firefighting appliance should be prepared as per format in the enclosure.

If unable to service, a report should be generated detailing equipment details and reason for unable to service supported with photographs and report send to technical superintendent keeping DPA/ Alt DPA in copy.

Kindly discuss the same during the next Safety / Management meeting on board and ensure compliance.

Enclosure : 1. Portable Fire Extinguishers – Certificate template
2. EEBD - Certificate template



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3. SCBA – Certificate template
4. Fixed CO2 system – Certificate template

Thank You,

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