



Convention for Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended
Equivalent arrangement accepted under the authority of Regulation I/5(a)
for Regulation II-1/11.2 and 11.3, Initial testing of watertight bulkheads
Statement by the Government of the Netherlands

Introduction

1. SOLAS Reg. II-1/11.2 and 11.3 requires all tanks of new ships to be tested under water pressure. IACS in UR S 14 is providing alternative provisions to the requirements of SOLAS Reg. II-1/11.2 and 11.3 which have been submitted to SDC 1 (SDC 1/INF.13) for consideration. In an effort to work towards amending SOLAS regulation II-1/11 (Initial testing of watertight bulkheads, etc.) no consensus could be found leading to the conclusion that there is no need to amend SOLAS Reg. II-1/11.
2. Recalling that SDC2 noted that alternative arrangement systems can be considered on a case-by-case basis by Administrations, the Netherlands has done an analysis so as to provide the acceptance criteria for an equivalent arrangement.
3. For that purpose the Netherlands has visited two Dutch shipyards and had for their consideration information related to the practice and experience with other shipyards of EU recognized organizations.
4. Based on the analysis performed by the Netherlands and careful review of IACS UR S 14, the conclusion is that IACS UR S 14 is providing an adequate safety level and may be considered as an equivalent to SOLAS Reg. II-1/11.2 and 11.3 under the conditions stated in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3

Equivalent arrangement

5. The provisions in IACS UR S 14, as amended may be considered as equivalent to the provisions of the requirements in SOLAS Regulation II-1/11.2 and .3 under the following conditions:
 - 5.1 The tank testing plan shall be reviewed and confirmation of the structural similarity of tanks as stated in IACS URS 14, as amended shall be provided by the RO's plan approval department;
 - 5.2 The shipyard where the ship is built shall have in place a certified quality management system according to a recognized standard, e.g. ISO 9001 or an equivalent standard acceptable to the RO which ensures the shipbuilding quality standard covering the production process; and
 - 5.3 The RO shall have experience with the yard and their records so that the provisions of IACS UR S 14 are considered adequate for the purpose of ensuring the required tightness and structural strength of watertight boundaries.