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MSC.1/Circ.1617
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UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE IGC CODE

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 101st session (5 to 14 June 2019), with a view to providing more specific guidance on paragraphs 11.3.6 and 11.4.8 of the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code), approved unified interpretations of the Code, prepared by the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment, at its sixth session, as set out in the annex.

2 Member States are invited to use the annexed unified interpretations as guidance when applying paragraphs 11.3.6 and 11.4.8 of the IGC Code, and to bring them to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS OF THE IGC CODE

Paragraph 11.3.6 – Fire protection and extinction, Water-spray system

Where "F.O. tanks" are installed at the after end of the aftermost hold space or at the forward end of the forwardmost hold space instead of cofferdams as allowed for in paragraphs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 of the IGC Code, the weather deck area above these tanks should be regarded as a "cargo area" for the purpose of applying paragraph 11.3.6.

Paragraph 11.4.8 – Fire protection and extinction, Dry chemical powder fire-extinguishing systems

Testing arrangements should involve the discharge using dry chemical powder from all monitors and hand hose lines on board but it is not required that there is a full discharge of the installed quantity of dry powder. This testing can also be used to satisfy the requirement that the piping is free of obstructions, in lieu of blowing through with dry air all the distribution piping. However, after the completion of this testing, the system, including all monitors and hand hose lines, should be blown through with dry air but only for the purpose of the system subsequently being clear from any residues of dry chemical powder.
