



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Swiss Maritime Navigation Office SMNO

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To whom it may concern

Exemption concerning the current arrangements related to Quick Closing Valves (SOLAS Ch II-2 / Reg. 4/2.2.3.4)

The Swiss Maritime Navigation Office (SMNO) has no objection for the vessels flying the Swiss flag to the current arrangements of the Quick Closing Valves not fitted directly to the storage/daily service tank for a temporary period until the next suitable drydock.

SOLAS stipulates in Ch II-2, Reg. 4/2.2.3.4 that oil fuel pipes shall be fitted with a cock or valve directly to the tank capable of being closed from a safe position outside the space concerned in the event of a fire.

The Class interpretation of mentioned SOLAS regulation is to accept a short length of pipe between the quick closing valve and the boundary of the tank to basically allow possible thermal insulation of the tank bulkhead and/or oil fuel piping and to install the quick-closing valve at a crew-accessible position. Moreover,

- the short distance pipe onboard the above-mentioned vessels is just 1300 mm;
- the valves are fitted with remote controls and, these valves are remotely capable of controlling at the engine control room and outside of the engine room;
- SOLAS and Class Rules intend to shut off the valve from a position outside of the engine room in case of fire;
- the existing arrangements have been in place for 8 to 9 years in a satisfactory condition and verified annually during the regular Class and Statutory surveys;
- distance pipes are located in protective locations from mechanical damages.

Safe operation of the vessel is therefore never compromised. Nevertheless, the necessary modifications of the existing oil fuel piping arrangement are planned, but imply removal and/or consumption of the fuel in the tanks, gas-freeing, tank cleaning and hot work which should only be done in a safe and controlled environment, typically in a shipyard.

The shipowner is to provide written documentary evidence of the modifications work and the proper operation by an authorised service company (RO) to the Flag State Authority.

This Exemption Letter is valid until January 31, 2028.

Swiss Maritime Navigation Office SMNO