



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 878 of 6th June 2025

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Draft Unified Interpretation of SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.4 on Sounding Pipes of Tanks
Reference	SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.4

Draft Unified Interpretation of SOLAS Regulation II-2/4.2.4 on Sounding Pipes of Tanks for Flammable Oils other than Oil Fuel and Lubricating Oil

SOLAS regulation II-2/4.2.4 on arrangements for other flammable oils provides that the arrangements for the storage, distribution and utilization of other flammable oils employed under pressure is to ensure the safety of the ship and persons on board. Furthermore, in locations where means of ignition are present, the arrangements are to comply with certain provisions of SOLAS 2-II/2.2 in respect of strength and construction.

The draft UI clarifies that the fitting of a small-diameter self-closing control cock at the termination of sounding pipes should not be required for sounding pipes of oily bilge water tanks, fuel oil drain tanks, sludge oil tanks, or lubricating oil and other flammable oil drain tanks, provided the tanks are not pressurized by a static pressure head from other tanks with pipes leading into the tank or by a pump discharge head, and the oils contained have flashpoint above 60° C.

Next steps: The Sub-Committee instructed the Correspondence Group on Fire Protection to further consider this UI intersessionally.

REFERENCES:

- SOLAS regulation II-2/4.2.4.

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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