

**FIXED FIRE SMOTHERING GAS INSTALLATIONS:  
SITING PRECAUTIONS FOR CO<sub>2</sub> CYLINDERS**

**Notice to Owners, Masters and Officers of Merchant Ships  
and Fishing Vessels**

Recent resurveys of CO<sub>2</sub> installations employing a gang release system for total flooding of the machinery spaces has shown that in ships where the CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder storage room is subject to severe vibration, or in cases where cylinder clamps have not been tightened properly after the cylinders have been removed for weighing or replenishment, cylinders have rotated resulting in some cases to malfunction and in some cases to the premature release of CO<sub>2</sub> gas. In many cases the rotation of the cylinders has been such that operation of the system, if it had been required, would not have been possible due to misalignment of the valve operating levers.

To minimise this danger it is advisable in existing installations that arrangements for clamping and verifying the alignment of cylinders should be carefully checked at regular intervals between the surveys or inspections normally carried out by the Department's Surveyors.

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