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## **FIRE PROTECTION – Fire Retardant Treatments for Fabrics - Equivalent Testing Standards for Large Commercial Yacht Code.**

**Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators, Masters and Officers of Ships, Ship Designers, Shipbuilders, Notified Bodies and Service Providers of Fire Retardant Treatment Products**

*This notice replaces MGN 453*

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### **Please Note**

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances – for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

### **Summary**

This MGN brings the attention of interested parties to the publication of the MCA Approval Procedures for fire retardant treatment of floor coverings, suspended textile materials, upholstery materials and bedding components onboard vessels certificated under the Large Commercial Yacht Code.

#### **Key Points:**

- The MCA Approval Procedures provide equivalence to inherently fire retardant materials used onboard new build and existing vessels certificated under the Fire Safety section of the Large Commercial Yacht Code part A (vessel < 500 GT).
- They establish robust quality assurance procedures to allow approval of fire retardant treatments for the protection of materials used onboard large commercial yachts.
- The **MCA Approval Procedures** and a **Declaration of Conformity** for such fire retardant treatments can be found as Appendixes 1 & 2, respectively, to this MGN.
- Service Provider is an organisation authorized by UK Notified Bodies to provide fire retardant treatment as defined in Appendix 1.
- List of Service Providers can be found online at the websites shown in Appendix 3.
- This MGN is applicable to new builds and existing large yachts.
- This MGN is replaces MGN 453 following experience gained since 1 October 2012.



## 1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1 Under the requirements of the Large Commercial Yacht Code, for vessels of 500GT and over, accommodation spaces should be provided with an automatic sprinkler system and, unless a fully addressable fire detection system is fitted, upholstery, bedding components and suspended textiles are required to be inherently fire retardant by complying with the relevant parts of the IMO Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code) or an equivalent standard acceptable to the Administration. Primary deck coverings within accommodation spaces, service spaces and control stations are to be of a type which will not readily ignite, or give rise to toxic or explosive hazards at elevated temperatures.
- 1.2 Under the requirements of the Large Commercial Yacht Code, for vessels of less than 500GT, unless the space is fitted with sprinklers or equivalent approved fixed fire extinguishing systems, upholstery and suspended textiles are required to be inherently fire retardant by complying with the relevant parts of the IMO Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code) or an equivalent standard acceptable to the Administration.
- 1.3 The MCA has been approached by companies wishing to provide fire retardant treatment on floor coverings, suspended textile materials, upholstery materials and bedding components, as an equivalence to inherently fire retardant materials, onboard vessels certificated under the Large Commercial Yacht Code.
- 1.4 In order to approve this type of fire protection equivalence, the MCA has to be assured that the fire retardant treatment process, including quality controls, is equivalent to appropriate standards of the IMO Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code).
- 1.5 To control the approval of these fire retardant treatments as an equivalent, the MCA has produced **MCA Approval Procedures** and a **Declaration of Conformity** for such treatments, which can be found as Appendixes 1 & 2, respectively, to this MGN.

## 2. Application Date

- 2.1 An Application Date of 1 February 2018 for Service Providers to comply with these Procedures will apply, after which date, the Service Provider of any fire retardant treatment used to protect floor coverings, suspended textile materials, upholstery materials and bedding components onboard United Kingdom or Red Ensign Group flag Large Commercial Yacht Code certificated vessels, must be approved, and certificated in accordance with these Procedures.
- 2.2 Meanwhile, until 1 February 2018, fire retardant treatment Service Providers may continue to apply their treatment onboard United Kingdom or Red Ensign Group flag Large Commercial Yacht Code certificated vessels, in accordance with MGN 453.
- 2.3 Notwithstanding the above, any prior approval in accordance with MGN 453 will be valid until the expiry date of the approval certificate.
- 2.4 The MCA will continue to monitor the continued successful use of this MGN and the equivalence it provides in order to determine future policy on the use of chemical sprays as an equivalence to IMO approved products. This may include the review of Declaration of Conformity during vessel surveys and inspections, as well as visits to Notified Bodies.



## More Information

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File Ref: MS 047/003/0725

Published: Printers to Insert December 2017  
Please note that all addresses and  
telephone numbers are correct at time of publishing

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