

ANNEX 2 – GENERAL EXEMPTION IN RELATION TO FIRE PROTECTION
ON CLASS XII VESSELS



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GENERAL EXEMPTION IN RELATION TO FIRE PROTECTION ON CLASS XII VESSELS

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by Regulation 85(3) of The Merchant Shipping Act 1995 and Regulation 47 of the Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection: Small Ships) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/1011) hereby exempts any vessel of Class XII under 500 gross tons, as defined in these regulations, from the requirements of Regulations 23, 35 and 36 as they apply to vessels of Class XII, subject to the condition that the vessel complies with the requirements of the Schedule to the Exemption.

This General Exemption revokes and replaces the General Exemption issued under SI 1999/2721 on 01 January 2019, published in Annex 2 of Marine Guidance Note (MGN) 599 (M).

This General Exemption shall remain valid unless revoked or cancelled.

Dated this day the 23 October 2024.

Fraser Heasley
Director of UK Technical Maritime Services

SCHEDULE TO EXEMPTION IN RELATION TO FIRE PROTECTION ON CLASS XII VESSELS

Fire Protection

“length” in relation to a registered ship means length defined in section 2.1 above and in relation to an unregistered ship means the length from the fore part of the stem to the aft side of the head of the stern post or, if no stern post is fitted to take the rudder, to the fore side of the rudder stock at the point where the rudder passes out of the hull;

“registered length” should be taken to mean the “length” as defined in the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/1510), which is:

the greater distance of the following distances –

- (a) the distance between the fore side of the stem and the axis of the rudder stock; or
- (b) 96 per cent of the distance between the fore side of the stem and the aft side of the stern;

the points and measurements being taken respectively at and along a waterline at 85 per cent of the least moulded depth of the ship. In the case of a ship having a rake of keel the waterline shall be parallel to the designed waterline;

Category A and B Waters

A ship on voyages solely on Category A or B waters (as defined in MSN 1837, as amended) will be considered to comply with the minimum firefighting equipment requirements if it is issued with a valid Boat Safety Scheme Certificate.

Category C and D Waters and Ships Engaged on Voyages to Sea

A ship on voyages on category C or D waters (as defined in MSN 1837, as amended) or to sea shall comply with the carriage requirements set out in the following table.

	Vessels of 13.7 metres but less than 24 metres in length.	Vessels of 24 metres in length or over and less than 500GT
Multi-purpose fire extinguisher to a recognised standard with minimum fire rating of 13A/113B	4 (1)	2
Metal, plastic or canvas buckets with lanyards suitable for fighting fires.	2	2
Fire blanket to be provided in every galley or cooking area where this a risk of fire.	1	1

Hand or power drive fire pump (outside engine space), with sea and hose connections, capable of delivering a jet of water to an part of the ship through hose and nozzle, and one fire hose of adequate length with a 10mm nozzle and a suitable spray nozzle. (2).		1
Fire extinguishing means suitable for the capacity of the engine space for vessels fitted with inboard engines. (3).		YES

(1) For vessels of less than 24 meters length, a combination of smaller extinguishers giving equivalent fire rating is accepted. Two extinguishers may be accepted instead of 4 if the following is provided: A fire pump capable of delivering a jet of water with a minimum throw of 6 meters with a 6mm nozzle to any part of the ship. The fire pump need not be a dedicated fire pump and shall have one fire hose of adequate length with a 6mm nozzle and a suitable spray nozzle, and shall be either:-

- a. A hand powered fire pump, fixed or portable, outside any engine space with one sea and hose connections: or
- b. A power driven fire pump outside any engine space, fixed or portable, with sea and hose connections; or
- c. A hand powered portable fire pump with a throw over suction and hose connection.

(2) The fire pump may be substituted with 2 multipurpose fire extinguishers in addition to the fire extinguishers already required. These fire extinguishers shall have a minimum fire rating of 13A/113B. Smaller fire extinguishers giving an equivalent fire rating may be used.

(3) A person shall not be required to enter the machinery space in order to extinguish a fire. If it is not possible to extinguish fires in the machinery space safely from outside the space by discharging portable extinguishers into the space, a fixed firefighting system shall be fitted.

The means of complying with this requirement may be met by providing a portable fire extinguisher suitably sized for the space being protected and arranged to discharge into that space, an additional extinguisher, or one of the multi-purpose already required can also be the extinguisher required for discharge into the engine space, providing it is a suitable type (type B), and suitably sized and stowed in a location appropriate to its dual use.

When a fixed firefighting system, which is not a portable fire extinguisher is installed, in a machinery space, it should be an MCA, or equivalent, approved type appropriate to the space to be protected,

and be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements. The requirements for fixed firefighting installations are provided in the Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection – Small Ships) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998 No. 1011), as amended, and in MSN 1666 (M) Amendment 1: – “The Merchant Shipping Fire Protection Regulations 2023 and The Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection: Small Ships) Regulations 1998: Fixed fire detection alarm and extinguishing systems”

Fixed installations in machinery spaces covered by the references are:

- (a) Medium expansion foam;
- (b) High expansion foam;
- (c) Carbon dioxide;
- (d) Pressure water spraying;
- (e) Vaporising fluids (hydrofluorocarbons – HFCs); and
- (f) Aerosols (solid pyrotechnic type).

Note:

Multi-purpose fire extinguishers shall have a capability to deal with both Category A fires involving solid materials, and Category B fires, involving liquids or liquefiable solids. Portable fire extinguishers provided in compliance with this schedule shall be of an approved type and / or technically equivalent to BS EN 3.