



**RUSSIAN MARITIME REGISTER OF SHIPPING**  
HEAD OFFICE

**CIRCULAR LETTER**

**№ 313-1.8-627c**

dated **12.02.2013**

Re:

Content and application procedure of the IACS Recommendation №123 (May 2012) "Recommendation based on IMO instruments -MSC.1/Circ.1370 and Resolution MSC.292 (87) "Amendments to the FSS Code Chapter 16 Fixed Hydrocarbon Gas Detection Systems".

Item of supervision:

Hydrocarbon gas concentration measurement systems on board oil tankers, code 08031230

Implementation 01.02.2013

Valid: till -----

Validity period prolonged till -----

Cancels / amends / adds circular letter № ----- of -----

Number of pages: 1

Appendices: Amendments to be introduced to the Rules for the Classification and Construction of Sea-going Ships, Part VIII, Section 9 – on 1 sheet

First Chief Operating Officer

Igor A. Baranov

Amends "Rules for the Classification and Construction of Sea-going Ships" ND 2-020101-072 (Vol.2), Part VIII, Section 9.

Please be informed that since 01.06.2013 the IACS Rec. №123 (May 2012) "Recommendation based on IMO instruments -MSC.1/Circ.1370 "Guidelines for the design, construction and testing of fixed hydrocarbon gas detection systems" and Resolution MSC.292 (87) "Amendments to the FSS Code, Chapter 16 Fixed Hydrocarbon Gas Detection Systems" will enter into force. The said recommendations specify the requirements to the design of hydrocarbon gas detection system in the spaces adjacent to cargo tanks of oil tankers of 20 000 t deadweight and above, specified in 9.14.6 of Part VIII "Systems and Piping" Rules for the Classification and Construction of Sea-going Ships. Text of the amendments to the present Rules are attached.

Full original text of the IACS Recommendation Rec. №123 (May 2012) in English is posted at RS service website in the Section ONTI "List of external normative documents" 1-0223-123-E.

The above amendments will be taken into consideration when reissuing the Rules for the Classification and Construction of Sea-going Ships, in the Section 9, Part VIII "Systems and piping".

It is necessary to do the following:

1. The said recommendations should be applied during the survey of hydrocarbon gas detection systems on board oil tankers under construction and in service.
2. Content of this letter should be brought to the notice of surveyors, design organizations and shipyards within the activity area of Branch Offices and Representations.

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Amendments (alterations) to be introduced into the Rules for the Classification and Construction of Sea-going Ships (2013)

Part VIII "Systems and Piping"

9.14.6 shall be amended to read:

«Oil tankers of 20 000 t deadweight and above shall be provided with a fixed hydrocarbon gas detection system of all double hull spaces complying with the Fire Safety Systems Code and the IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1370.

.1 The above system should perform periodical measurements of hydrocarbon concentration in all ballast tanks and void spaces adjacent to cargo tanks, including fore peak tank and any other tanks and spaces under bulkhead deck, however this is not required for fuel tanks.

.2 As a rule, the gas detection system should be arranged with single sampling lines from each sampling point. Sampling lines in the same space may be combined at deck level with a manually operated three-way valve arrangements provided with clear local indication of which sampling point is active. In ballast/partially ballast condition valve to be set so that upper sampling point is active; for empty tank the lower sampling point is to be active.

.3 Hydrocarbon gas concentration measurement systems should also be provided in ballast pump rooms and bow thruster rooms located under the bulkhead decks as well as in any void spaces adjacent to cargo and slop tanks. In such spaces it is permitted to arrange one sampling point at the lower part.

.4 It is not required to install fixed hydrocarbon gas detection equipment in the spaces of oil tankers fitted with permanently operated inert gas system for such spaces.

.5 Cargo pump rooms complying with the requirements of 9.14.3 and 9.14.4 are not covered by the requirements of this paragraph.