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**ESCAPE ARRANGEMENTS FROM THE LOWER PART OF MACHINERY SPACES
(SOLAS Regulations II-2/13.4.1 and 13.4.2)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 110th session (18 to 27 June 2025), following consideration of experiences reported by some SOLAS Contracting Governments and international organizations, noted the existence and impact of divergence in the interpretations of SOLAS regulations II-2/13.4.1.1 and 13.4.2.1 in particular, in the context of port State control (PSC) inspections, regarding the term "lower part" used in connection with the means of escape from spaces below the bulkhead deck for passenger ships, and from machinery spaces of category A for cargo ships.

2 In light of the relevance of the aforementioned SOLAS regulations to emergency response on board, requiring important design features for escape routes from spaces below the bulkhead deck for passenger ships and from machinery spaces of category A for cargo ships, with a view to clarifying escape arrangements from machinery spaces, MSC 110 considered the report of SDC 11 which had confirmed that the terms "lower part of the space" should be regarded as either the lowest deck level or a platform or passageway.

3 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 111th session (13 to 22 May 2026) noted the agreement of SDC 12 that no safety issues had been demonstrated resulting from application of existing SOLAS regulations II-2/13.4.1.1 and 13.4.2.1, and that no further discussion was needed.

4 Further, on that basis, the Committee confirmed that the term "lower part of the space" in SOLAS regulations II-2/13.4.1.1 and 13.4.2.1 should be regarded as either the lowest deck level or a platform or passageway.

5 Having recalled the responsibility of flag States to approve the relevant arrangements in compliance with SOLAS regulations II-2/13.4.1.1 and 13.4.2.1, as implemented by their authorized recognized organizations, as appropriate, the Committee urged that PSC officers should accept in principle the design arrangement approved by the flag State and, when appropriate, consult with the flag Administrations (*Procedures for port State control, 2025* (resolution A.1206(34)), paragraph 1.2.5, as may be revised).

6 SOLAS Contracting Governments are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

7 This circular revokes MSC.1/Circ.1689.