



Marine Notice No. 18 of 2020

Notice to all Fishing Vessel Owners/Operators, Skippers, Fishers, and Seafarers

Incident Involving the Fire and Total Loss of a Fishing Vessel 15-24m in length

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport wishes to bring to the attention of all fishing vessel owners/operators, skippers, fishers and seafarers a recent report published by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board into the marine casualty involving the fishing vessel "MFV Suzanne II". The full report may be obtained from the website of the Marine Casualty Investigation Board at www.mcib.ie.

In response to the Marine Casualty Investigation Board's recommendations, the purpose of this Marine Notice is to remind vessel owners of the following:

- Owners of all vessels have a legal obligation to operate their vessels in accordance with the law and must make themselves aware of the regulations applicable.
 - [S.I. No. 587/2001 - Fishing Vessel \(Basic Safety Training\) Regulations, 2001](#) requires all fishing vessel crew members to undergo Basic Safety Training;
 - [S.I. No. 48/1993 - Merchant Shipping \(Musters\)\(Fishing Vessels\) Regulations 1993 & S.I. No. 640/2007 - Merchant Shipping \(Safety of Fishing Vessels\) \(15-24 Metres\) Regulations 2007](#) requires the Skippers of Fishing Vessels to draw up muster lists for their vessels and exercise the crews of their vessels in the use of lifesaving appliances and fire fighting appliances carried on their vessels;
 - [S.I. No. 640/2007 - Merchant Shipping \(Safety of Fishing Vessels\) \(15-24 Metres\) Regulations 2007](#) regulates the safety of fishing vessels and their crew in the 15-24 m length category. Part 8 in the regulations requires that inspections of life-saving equipment and fire appliances are made at least monthly. A report of the inspection is required to be entered into the logbook.

Furthermore, in relation to fire detection and alarm systems, the Department recommends the guidelines on testing and inspections in the enclosed Annex.

- The Skipper of every Fishing Vessel has overall responsibility for ensuring his/her crew know the location of firefighting equipment on the vessel and are instructed, trained and drilled in the use of such equipment. For more detailed information on drills please consult [Marine Notice No.40 of 2018](#).

Finally, please consult [Marine Notice No. 49 of 2019](#) for additional fishing vessel safety information and recommendations.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60, Ireland.

24/04/2020

Encl: Annex

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3400.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, tel: +353-(0)1-678 3418.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02
TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@dtas.gov.ie or visit us at: www.dttas.gov.ie

Annex 1: Inspection and servicing – fire detection and alarm systems

Maintenance routine

The following maintenance routine should be adopted. (The manufacturer's maintenance and inspection guidelines should also be followed.)

a) Daily attention

The Master / Owner should ensure that on every working day a check is made:

- 1) that either the panel indicates the normal active condition without alarm or fault indication, or that any variations from this are recorded in the log book and where appropriate corrective action is taken;
- 2) that any alarm recorded since the previous working day has received appropriate attention;
- 3) that, where appropriate, the system has been properly restored after any disablement, testing or silencing. Any defect observed should be recorded in the log book and corrective action should be taken as soon as possible.

b) Weekly attention

Verify all fire detection and fire alarm control panel indicators are functional by operating the lamp/indicator test switch. Any defect observed should be recorded in the log book and corrective action should be taken as soon as possible

c) Monthly attention

At least once a month the Master / Owner owner should:

- 1) ensure that any standby generator required to provide emergency power to the fire detection and alarm system is started, and that its fuel levels are checked and, where necessary, replenished :
 - i) that the reserves of paper, ink or ribbon on any printer are adequate;
 - ii) that the indicator test facility is operated and any defective indicator is noted.
- 2) inspect and test a sample of detectors and manual call points so that all devices have been tested at least once within a 12 month period.

Any defect observed should be recorded in the log book and corrective action should be taken as soon as possible.

d) Quarterly attention

At least once every 3 months the Master / Owner should ensure that a competent person:

- 1) checks all entries in the log book and takes any action necessary to bring the system into correct operation;
- 2) operates at least one detector or manual call point in each zone, to test whether the control and indicating equipment receives and displays the correct signal, sounds the alarm and operates any other warning or ancillary devices;
- 3) checks the fault monitoring functions of the control and indicating equipment;
- 4) checks the ability of the control and indicating equipment to operate any door holding or door release function if applicable;

- 5) carries out all further checks and tests specified by the installer, supplier or manufacturer;
- 6) considers whether there have been any structural or occupancy changes which might have affected the requirements for the siting of manual call points, detectors and sounders, and appropriate follow up action is taken as required.

Any defect observed should be recorded in the log book and corrective action should be taken as soon as possible.

e) Yearly attention

At least once every year the Master / Owner should ensure that a competent person:

- 1) carries out the inspection and test routines recommended daily, monthly and quarterly;
- 2) checks each detector for correct operation in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations*;
- 3) checks the ability of the control and indicating equipment to operate any ancillary function; (including any fire detection systems used to automatically release fire-extinguishing agents for proper operation, as appropriate);
- 4) makes a visual inspection to confirm that all cable fittings and equipment are secure, undamaged and adequately protected;
- 5) makes a visual inspection to check whether structural or occupancy changes have affected the requirements for the siting of manual call points, detectors and sounders. The visual inspection should also confirm that a clear space of at least 0.5 m is preserved in all directions below every detector and that all manual call points remain unobstructed and conspicuous;
- 6) examines and tests all batteries.
- 7) visually inspect all accessible detectors for evidence of tampering, obstruction, degradation etc.;
- 8) tests emergency power supply switchover, if applicable.

*NOTE. Although each detector should be checked annually by a competent person, it is permissible for 25% of the detectors to be tested at each of the quarterly inspections.

Any defect observed should be recorded in the logbook and corrective action should be taken as soon as possible