



Technical Circular

No.: 051/2021

Date: 1st October 2021

Subject: Malta Information Notice 41 reg. Water Mist Lance onboard Vessels.

1. Maritime Administration of Malta has issued Information Notice 41 containing an Investigation Report No. 21/2021 highlighting the potential safety hazards associated with container fires.
2. The investigation report draws particular attention to the importance of using a water mist lance when extinguishing container fires on-board vessels. A water mist lance consists of a tube with a nozzle capable of penetrating a container wall and producing a water mist inside the container when connected to the fire main. This equipment can easily be carried, mounted, operated by a single person and on various occasions has shown to offer fast firefighting response time.
3. As per SOLAS Chapter II-2, Regulation 10.7.3 as amended, such equipment is required on board vessels designed to carry containers on or above the weather deck constructed on or after 01 January 2016.
4. Notwithstanding the above mandatory requirement for new vessels, the Administration has recommended that at least one water mist lance with the same specifications as prescribed in the SOLAS Convention be also carried on-board vessels designed to carry containers on or above the weather deck constructed before 01 January 2016.
5. Ship owners, managers and masters of vessels designed to carry containers on or above the weather deck are advised to be guided by above and follow the recommendations contained in the report.

Enclosure:

1. Malta Information Notice 41, dated 27 September 2021.



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Merchant Shipping Directorate



WATER MIST LANCE ON-BOARD VESSELS

Information Notice 41

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the Marine Safety Investigation Report No. [21/2021](#). This report highlights the potential safety hazards associated with container fires.

Particular attention is drawn to the importance of using a water mist lance when extinguishing container fires on-board vessels. A water mist lance consists of a tube with a nozzle capable of penetrating a container wall and producing a water mist inside the container when connected to the fire main. This equipment can easily be carried, mounted, operated by a single person and on various occasions has shown to offer fast firefighting response time.

As per SOLAS Chapter II-2, Regulation 10.7.3 as amended, such equipment is required on board vessels designed to carry containers on or above the weather deck constructed on or after 01 January 2016.

Notwithstanding the above mandatory requirement for new vessels, this Directorate recommends that at least one water mist lance with the same specifications as prescribed in the SOLAS Convention is also carried on-board vessels designed to carry containers on or above the weather deck constructed before 01 January 2016.

All concerned are strongly recommended to bring this Notice and the investigation report to the attention of all crew serving onboard Maltese registered vessels and follow the recommendations contained therein.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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