



SAFETY ALERT No. 17-01

Fixed Fire Extinguishing Systems

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Safety Alert was previously published as BMA Technical Alert 13-02.
- 1.2. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) published its report of investigation into a fire on board the Panamanian flagged passenger ship "CARNIVAL SPLENDOR" in 2010.
- 1.3. Attention is also drawn to the USCG Marine Safety Alerts (MSAs) 10(a)-10 and 10(b)-10 which were published following this incident.
- 1.4. The report of investigation and MSAs are available to download from the USCG website – <https://homeport.uscg.mil> (select "Port State Control" from left hand menu, then under "General Information", select "Cruise Ships").
- 1.5. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 1.1 and 1.2 to the attention of interested parties.

2. Description of incident

- 2.1. A fire occurred in the aft engine room of CARNIVAL SPLENDOR following the catastrophic failure of a main generator engine.
- 2.2. The fire damaged overhead cable runs, as a result of which the crew were unable to restart the main generators. As CARNIVAL SPLENDOR has a diesel-electric propulsion system, there was therefore no power for propulsion and the vessel had to be towed back to port.

- 2.3. There have been several fires on passenger ships since the CARNIVAL SPLENDOR incident. These incidents have highlighted two important aspects of SOLAS Chapter II-2, namely:
- i. The importance of effective maintenance, testing and inspections of shipboard fire-fighting systems and appliances to ensure that they are in good working order and ready for immediate use in the event of an emergency (Regulation 14); and
 - ii. The importance of crew familiarity with the arrangements on board the ship and the provision of accurate instructions and information regarding the proper operation and use of fire-fighting systems and appliances for the crew to perform their assigned duties under emergency conditions (Regulation 15).
- 2.4. Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors are requested to review the CARNIVAL SPLENDOR report of investigation and the MSAs and take into account the recommendations therein, where relevant, when undertaking audits, surveys and inspections on Bahamian ships.
- 2.5. All Companies operating Bahamian ships are requested to review the CARNIVAL SPLENDOR report of investigation and the MSAs and take into account the recommendations therein when inspecting their own ships' fire-fighting systems and when reviewing crew familiarisation and training routines.

3. Validity

- 3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

4. Revision History

Rev.0 (03 January 2017) – First issue