



## TECHNICAL ALERT No. 17-11

---

### Port State Control - Fuel Oil Quick Closing Valves

---

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) wishes to bring to the attention of owners, managers & Masters of Bahamian Ships, the below information on deficiencies related to fuel oil quick closing valves when inspected by Port State Control (PSC) Officers.
- 1.2. Quick closing valves are fitted to oil tanks so that in the event of a fire they can be safely closed from a remote location to stop the supply of fuel to the fire. These valves may be operated remotely by pull wires, hydraulics, compressed air, etc.
- 1.3. All owners, managers & Masters of Bahamian ships should ensure that all relevant crew members are familiar with the operation of the quick closing valves fitted to their ships.

#### 2. Inspection of Fuel Oil Quick Closing Valves by PSC

- 2.1. Deficiencies related to quick closing valves are considered major deficiencies and generally lead to the detention of the ship.
- 2.2. Recently, PSC have observed that quick closing valves have been modified or intentionally blocked to prevent them from closing. This practice has potentially catastrophic consequences in a fire emergency.
- 2.3. Quick closing valves are to be regularly maintained and tested. The inspection, maintenance and testing of quick closing valves is to be incorporated in the ship's planned maintenance system.
- 2.4. Quick closing valves should not be intentionally blocked or "gagged" in the open position to prevent operation. In cases where, temporarily, it is necessary to block a particular valve during testing or maintenance (e.g. to prevent loss of power or propulsion), care must be taken to return the

blocked valve to operational condition immediately after completion of testing or maintenance.

- 2.5. Any defects which prevent the operation of quick closing valves must be addressed immediately and reported to the ship's Class society at the earliest opportunity.

### **3. Validity**

- 3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

### **4. Revision History**

Rev.0 (19 September 2017) – First issue