



## **Strengthened maintenance regime for air pipe closing devices**

In order to ensure a continued safe operation of the fleet, and in order to relieve the concerns regarding the reliability of air pipe closing devices, ship owners are instructed to strengthen the maintenance regime. This regime shall ensure a continued acceptable level of safety, also in the event of a damage after collision or grounding, and shall include, for all ships where a probabilistic damage stability calculation is required and the air pipe openings are not considered as opening:

1. Before every departure it shall be ensured that all automatic air pipe closing devices are checked on proper functioning. The necessary provisions shall be incorporated in the ship's ISM manual and records of maintenance shall be kept available on board for inspection by flag state and port state control.
2. Sufficient spare parts shall be carried on board for immediate repair of all possible malfunctions.
3. All automatic air pipe closing devices shall be subject to an intensified annual survey for operational fitness by the classification society, including an inspection of all internal parts of the device. All rejected devices are to be repaired or replaced prior to departure.
4. During Netherlands' flag state controls, special attention will be paid to both the awareness of the crew regarding the measures stated above as well as the operational fitness of the air pipe closing devices.
5. Ship owners who do not or not sufficiently apply the measures as stipulated under 1 to 4 above, shall make a revised damage stability calculation with the air pipes as weather tight openings. The necessary design/stability/loadline measures may need to be taken in order to comply with the SOLAS provisions.

The above mentioned measures shall be applied to all ships flying the Netherlands flag where a damage stability calculation is mandatory and air pipes are not considered as opening, up to the first SOLAS renewal survey after the first of June 2016. After this renewal survey, the requirements of the equivalent arrangement as communicated by the IMO in circular letter 3573 is mandatory.

Publication

**Human Environment and Transport**

ILT/Shipping

PB 16191| 2500 BD Den Haag

T 088 489 00 00

[www.ilent.nl](http://www.ilent.nl)

Version August 2017