

Fire on passenger vessel

Casualty Circular No. 2 of 2005

F.No.11- NT(23)/2005

Dated 5th April 2005

Sub: Fire on passenger vessel

1. Narration :-

1.1 A fire accident occurred on board a passenger ship while the vessel was sailing on the coast of India.

1.2 At about 1600 hrs, fire alarm sounded and fire was located in the reception office of the vessel. It was noticed that the window type AC unit fitted to the reception office had caught fire. Emergency teams disconnected the electrical supply to the AC unit. Portable fire equipments were used to extinguish fire. No casualty or damage to property occurred.

2. PROBABLE CAUSES :

2.1 Investigation revealed that the fire occurred due to over heating of moving parts in the window type AC unit and subsequent short circuiting of electrical wiring.

3. OBSERVATION :

3.1 Window type AC unit used for reception office was recently serviced by local workshop who is not authorized to service the AC unit from the manufacturers.

3.2 The AC unit and other electrical appliances in the reception office were being kept ON throughout even when the area is not occupied.

3.3 Routine maintenance of AC unit such as checking the functioning of blower and electrical wire connections etc. were not part of the Plan Maintenance Schedule of the ship.

4. LESSONS LEARNT :

4.1 It is advisable that AC units are serviced by workshops who are authorized by manufacturers of the unit.

4.2 It is advisable that the routine inspection of window type AC units, are carried out by ship staff

4.3 It is recommended that clear instructions may be displayed near the AC units for switching off electrical equipments when not required

4.4 Shipowners, Managers, Operators and Masters etc are advised to take appropriate action accordingly.

5. This issues with the approval of the Nautical Adviser to the Govt. of India.

Sd/-

(Capt.H.Khatri)

Nautical Surveyor -cum

Dy. Director General of Shipping [Tech]

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