

KPI Information Update IU-54-2014 **(Updates Concerning the Noise Code)**

On 1 July 2014, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) will be amended to make the 'Code on Noise Levels On Board Ships' (the Noise Code) mandatory for new vessels.

The MSC 91, from 26 to 30 November 2012, adopted a new SOLAS regulation II-1/3-12 to require new ships to be constructed to reduce on-board noise and to protect personnel from noise, in accordance with the revised Code on noise levels on board ships, also adopted, which sets out mandatory maximum noise level limits for machinery spaces, control rooms, workshops, accommodation and other spaces on board ships. The Code supersedes the previous non-mandatory Code, adopted in 1981 by resolution A.468(XII).

The purpose of the Code is to provide standards on preventing noise levels hazardous to human health and reduce seafarers' exposure to such noise levels. It gives consideration to the need for communication and the ability to hear audible alarms, the importance of protecting the seafarer from noise-induced hearing loss, and the provision of an acceptable degree of comfort during rest hours. Introduction of the Noise Code will lead to changes in SOLAS, with Chapter II-1 Regulation 36 being replaced with a new Regulation 3-12 'Protection Against Noise'.

► Noise Level Limits:

Limits for noise levels (dB (A)) are specified for various spaces as follows:


Designation of rooms and spaces	Ship size	
	1,600 up to 10,000 GT	≥10,000 GT
4.2.1 Work spaces (see 5.1)		
Machinery spaces ⁵	110	110
Machinery control rooms	75	75
Workshops other than those forming part of machinery spaces	85	85
Non-specified work spaces ⁵ (other work areas)	85	85
4.2.2 Navigation spaces		
Navigating bridge and chartrooms	65	65
Look-out posts, incl. navigating bridge wings ⁷ and windows	70	70
Radio rooms (with radio equipment operating but not producing audio signals)	60	60
Radar rooms	65	65
4.2.3 Accommodation spaces		
Cabin and hospitals ⁸	60	55
Messrooms	65	60
Recreation rooms	65	60
Open recreation areas (external recreation areas)	75	75
Offices	65	60
Designation of rooms and spaces	Ship size	
	1,600 up to 10,000 GT	≥10,000 GT
4.2.4 Service spaces		
Galleys, without food processing equipment operating	75	75
Serveries and pantries	75	75
4.2.5 Normally unoccupied spaces		
Spaces referred to in section 3.14	90	90

► Warning Notices:

Where the noise level in machinery spaces (or other spaces) is greater than 85 dB(A), entrances to such spaces shall carry a warning notice comprising symbol and supplementary sign in the working language of the ship as prescribed by the Administration

(see below an example of the warning notice and signs in English). If only a minor portion of the space has such noise levels the particular location(s) or equipment shall be identified at eye level, visible from each direction of access.

Signs at the entrance to noisy rooms (example in English)	
80-85 dB(A)	HIGH-NOISE LEVEL – USE HEARING PROTECTORS
85-110 dB(A)	DANGEROUS NOISE – USE OF HEARING PROTECTORS MANDATORY
110-115 dB(A)	CAUTION: DANGEROUS NOISE – USE OF HEARING PROTECTORS MANDATORY – SHORT STAY ONLY
>115 dB(A)	CAUTION: EXCESSIVELY HIGH-NOISE LEVEL – USE OF HEARING PROTECTORS MANDATORY – NO STAY LONGER THAN 10 MINUTES




*For more details, please refer to **IMO - Resolution MSC.337 (91)** adopted on

November 2012, **ADOPTION OF THE CODE ON NOISE LEVELS ON BOARD SHIPS**

1. The new SOLAS regulation regarding protection against noise shall apply to ships of 1,600 gross tonnage and above that:
 - a) the building contract is placed on or after 1 July 2014; or
 - b) in the absence of a building contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2015; or
 - c) the delivery of which is on or after 1 July 2018, unless the administration deems that compliance with a particular provision is unreasonable or impractical.

2. For ships delivered before 1 July 2018 and:
 - a) contracted for construction before 1 July 2014 and the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2009 but before 1 January 2015; or
 - b) in the absence of a building contract, the keels of which are laid or which are at a similar stage of construction on or after 1 January 2009 but before 1 January 2015;

measures as referred to in the Code on Noise levels on board ships, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.468(XII), shall be taken to reduce machinery noise in machinery spaces to acceptable levels as determined by the administration. If this noise cannot be sufficiently reduced the source of excessive noise shall be suitably insulated or isolated or a refuge from noise shall be provided if the space is required to be manned. Ear protectors shall be provided for personnel required to enter such spaces, if necessary.