



**TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 905 of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	<b>Ro-Ro Spaces and Detection &amp; Alarm Systems (SOLAS Regulations II-2/20 &amp; II-2/7)</b>
Reference	SOLAS Regulations II-2/20 & II-2/7

**Amendments to Protection of Vehicle, Special Category, and Ro-Ro Spaces and Detection & Alarm Systems (SOLAS Regulations II-2/20 & II-2/7)**

The amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-2/20 and II-2/7 as adopted by MSC.550(108), introduce improved fire safety provisions for vehicle, special category, open and closed Ro-Ro spaces and weather-decks intended for the carriage of vehicles, focusing on early detection and quick response (fire detection and alarm systems), water-based suppression coverage, and strengthened boundary protection and ventilation requirements.

The new requirements are applicable to Passenger ships and Cargo ships.

The description below summarizes the requirements based on the ship type and date of construction.

**Cargo Ships Constructed on or after 1 Jan 2026 Fire Detection and Alarm Systems**

- Fixed fire detection & fire alarm system shall be provided in vehicle, special category and ro-ro spaces (complying with FSS Code Ch. 9 – see below), capable of rapidly detecting the onset of fire.
- Detector type, spacing and location shall be subject to Administration approval, considering ventilation effects and other relevant factors. After installation, the system shall be tested under normal ventilation conditions with overall response time subject to Administration approval.
- All corridors, stairways and escape routes within accommodation spaces, and all control stations and cargo control rooms shall be protected by fixed fire detection and fire alarm systems and/or automatic sprinkler, fire detection and Ship Type & Date of Construction Domain Amendments / Additional Requirements fire alarm systems per the adopted protection method (Method IC, IIC or IIIC) in accordance with SOLAS regulation 9.2.3.1.

Rooms containing sample smoke detection systems are considered control stations (ref.

MSC.1/Circ.1456/Rev.1 and IACS UI SC160). **Cargo Ships Constructed before 1 Jan 2026 Fire Detection and Alarm Systems**

- Requirements prior to the amendments adopted by MSC.550(108) remain applicable.

**REFERENCE:**

- FSS Code Ch. 9

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