



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 826 of 6th May 2024

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Revised Tank Inspection Requirement
Reference	2011 ESP Code

Enhanced Program of Inspections During Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers (2011 ESP Code).

Amendments to 2011 ESP Code – Revised Tank Inspection Requirement

Based on the findings of a recent marine safety investigation, amendments to the 2011 ESP Code were adopted to align the requirements for inspections of void spaces bounding cargo holds with the existing requirements for inspections of water ballast tanks.

The amendments will require that water ballast tanks be subject to annual examinations if the tank structure has been examined and a hard protective coating is found to be in “less than GOOD” condition (i.e., FAIR or POOR condition) or where:

- A soft or semi-hard coating has been applied
- A hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction

Effective Date: 1 July 2024

Source: MSC.525(106)

Similarly, double-side skin void spaces bounding cargo holds for bulk carriers exceeding 20 years of age and of 150 m in length and upward will be subject to annual examinations if the structure has been examined and a hard protective coating is found to be in “POOR” condition or where:

- A soft or semi-hard coating has been applied
- A hard protective coating has not been applied from the time of construction

The amendments will apply to bulk carriers of single-side skin construction and double-side skin construction.

Several additional clarifying amendments to the 2011 ESP Code were also finalized to clarify:

- That the ESP Code does not apply to oil tankers carrying oil in independent tanks not part of the ship’s hull
- The requirement for examination of ballast tanks at annual surveys

REFERENCES:

- ESP Code

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
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