



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 884 of 4th August 2025

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Spacing of Combined Smoke and Heat Detectors
Reference	Fire Safety Systems (FSS)

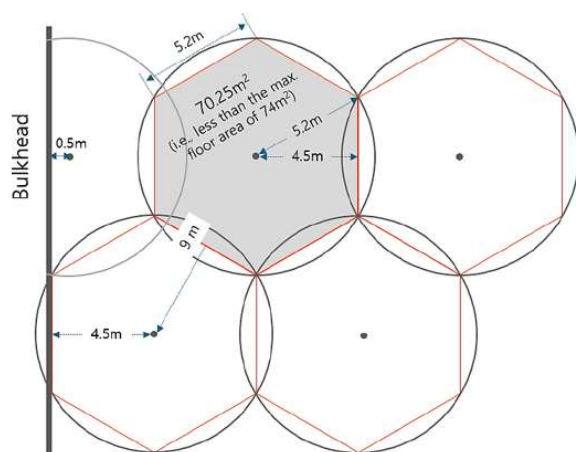
Unified Interpretation on Spacing of Combined Smoke and Heat Detectors

The draft UI proposes interpretations of paragraph 2.4.2.2 of chapter 9 of the International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS), as amended by resolution MSC.555(108), to clarify acceptable spacing of combined smoke and heat detectors for installation throughout vehicle, special category and ro/ro spaces of passenger ships constructed on or after 1 January 2026, which is left to the discretion of the Administration.

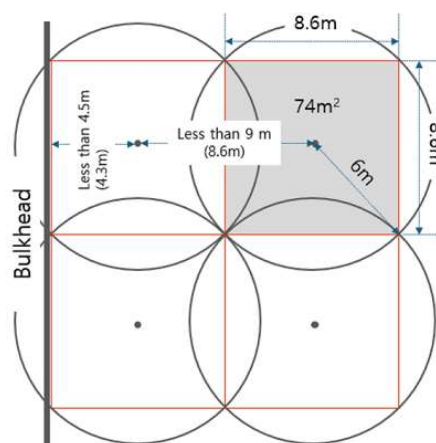
Paragraph 2.4.2.2 of chapter 9 of the FSS Code, Table 9.1 – Spacing of detectors, provides two different bases for the maximum floor area per detector and for the maximum distance apart between centers, which are respectively for heat detectors and smoke detectors, that raise questions how the spacing of combined smoke and heat detectors should be calculated and determined.

The draft UI offers two solutions for acceptable calculation methods:

1. Determination of the spacing based on the maximum distance of 9 m between detector centers, i.e., using hexagons of 5.2 m one-side length
2. Determination of the spacing based on the maximum floor area using squares of 74 m².



Solution 1



Solution 2

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REFERENCES:

- MSC.555(108)

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