

China MSA Requirement for Damage Control Booklets



Following a recent case in China where the China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) issued a deficiency (Code 17) requesting a Damage Control Booklet to be provided onboard before allowing the ship to sail, Owners / Operators of cargo ships constructed on or after 1 February 1992 and trading in Chinese ports should from now on ensure that a Damage Control Booklet (**in addition to the Damage Control Plan**) is available onboard. Where it is found that such booklet is not available, Owners/ Operators should produce the booklet, using MSC.1/Circ.1245 as guidance, and using a copy of, and based on, the Damage Control Plan already available onboard. The Damage Control Booklet in these situations is not required to be submitted to Class for approval.

Regulatory Background

Damage Control Plans and Damage Control Booklets have been required by SOLAS on cargo vessels (Chapter II-1 Regulation 19, dependant on ship type, construction date and length) since 1992.

The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter II-1 Regulation 19 requires all applicable ships to be provided with plans showing clearly for each deck and hold the boundaries of the watertight compartments, the openings therein with the means of closure and position of any controls thereof, and the arrangements for the correction of any list due to flooding. This information should also be included in the damage control booklet.

MSC.1/Circ.1245 provides additional guidance on the development of Damage Control Booklets and the necessary information to be included therein.

Applicability

Owners and operators of ships trading to Chinese ports and specifically:

- passenger ships, regardless of size, since at least 1974
- dry cargo ships over 100 metres in length, constructed on or after 1 February 1992
- dry cargo ships over 80 metres in length, constructed on or after 1 July 1998, and
- all ships, regardless of length, constructed on or after 1 January 2009

Expertise

AMC over the past years has prepared numerous Damage Control Booklets that have obtained Class approval.

A sample Damage Control Booklet is available [here](#).

Required Information

Given that a Damage Control Booklet should be ship-specific, the following documentation is required:

- Damage Control Plan
- Capacity Plan
- General Arrangement Plan
- Bilge & Ballast Piping Diagram
- Vent & Sounding Piping Diagram
- Fore Spaces De-watering System Piping Diagram (if applicable)
- Water Ingress Alarm System (if applicable)
- Location (frame number) & capacities of all ballast & bilge pumps

