

U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY CENTER PLAN REVIEW GUIDELINE



REVIEW OF PUBLIC BATHROOMS IN STAIRS

Procedure Number: SOLAS-38

Revision Date: March 25, 2022

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Purpose

This Plan Review Guideline (PRG) provides clear guidance on when public bathrooms in stairs should be protected with automatic sprinklers.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments concerning this document, please contact the Marine Safety Center (MSC) by e-mail or phone. Please refer to Procedure Number SOLAS-38.

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1. Applicability

This PRG is applicable to SOLAS passenger ships carrying more than 36 passengers.

2. References

SOLAS II-2/9.2.2.3.2.2(9) (previously II-2/26.2.2(11))

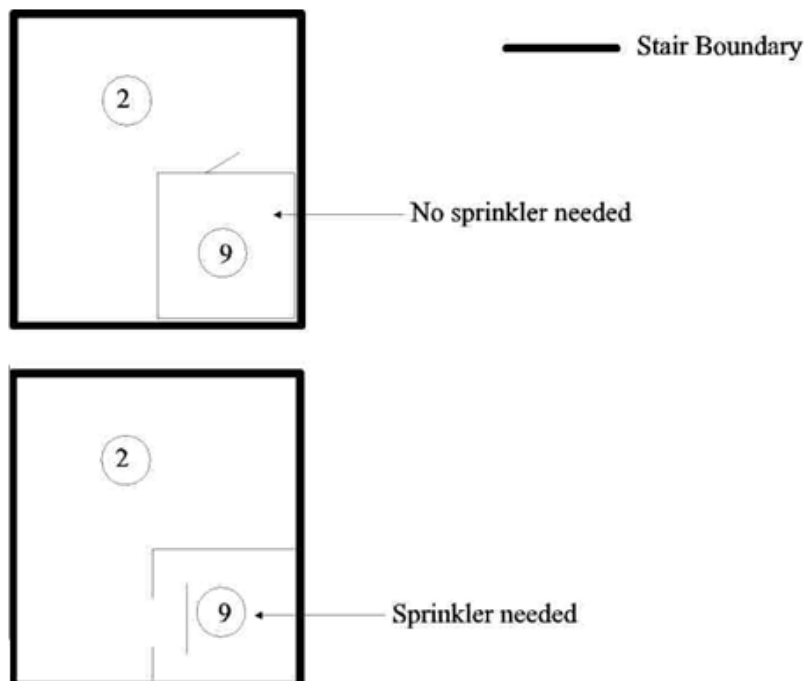
“Sanitary and other similar spaces – Communal sanitary facilities, showers, baths, water closets, etc. Private sanitary facilities shall be considered a portion of the space in which they are located.”

3. Background

SOLAS permits a reduction in SFP boundary (from A-0 to B-15) between a stair and public bathroom if the bathroom is enclosed entirely within the boundary of the stair. In this case, the bathroom will generally not be fitted with automatic sprinklers. However, some bathrooms have removed the B-15 door and installed a barrier screen, thereby breaching the continuous B-15 boundary. In these cases, additional protection should be provided.

4. Guidance

Public bathrooms in stairs that are provided with reduced (B-class) boundaries between the bathroom and stair should be protected with automatic sprinklers if the continuous B-class boundary is broken by removal of the door. See Drawing below.



5. Disclaimer

This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative, you may contact MSC, the unit responsible for implementing this guidance.