



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Release of CO₂ due to Burst Safety Discs

To: Ship owners, Operators, Recognised Organisations, Managers, DPA's

Subject: Release of CO₂ due to Burst Safety Discs

Gibraltar Maritime Administration, has been made aware by one of the approved recognised Organisations (RO), of a few cases where multiple CO₂ cylinders for the fixed fire extinguishing system were found empty due to the bursting of the safety disc. The RO has investigated the cases on their Classed vessels and, while no single cause could be found, offers the following advice:

The safety discs for the CO₂ cylinders are designed for a bursting pressure of 180 - 200 bar. This would normally not be exceeded as long as the temperature in the CO₂ Room remains below 55 degrees Celsius. However, in some of the cases where the cylinders were found empty, the vessel had traded in areas with high temperatures (above 40 degrees Celsius). It was also found that the exhaust fan for the CO₂ Room was not being continuously operated or was not operable. In addition, one manufacturer reported that even though the bottom of the CO₂ Room was insulated with A-60 insulation, the CO₂ Room was located in close proximity to a heated fuel tank in the engine room which may have affected the temperature in the room.

Therefore, the Administration recommends that the temperature of the CO₂ Room be monitored and kept below 55 degrees Celsius, especially when trading in areas with high temperatures.

Richard Montado
Maritime Administrator

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