



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Shipboard Fire Suppression Final Rule Published

The Coast Guard announced today the publication of a Final Rule amending the current regulations for carbon dioxide fire suppression systems on several classes of commercial vessel. The amendments clarify that approved “clean agent” systems may be used as alternatives to carbon dioxide systems, and set general requirements for alternative systems. To protect personnel against inadvertent carbon dioxide discharges during system maintenance and testing, new carbon dioxide systems protecting spaces larger than 6,000 cubic feet need to be equipped with lockout valves. All new carbon dioxide systems need odorizing units to alert personnel in the event of a system discharge. By requiring these features on carbon dioxide systems and by making a wider range of fire suppression systems available, these amendments advance the Coast Guard strategic goals of promoting marine safety and maritime mobility.

The Final Rule and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>; docket number: USCG-2006-24797.

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