

the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

(e) The Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection reviews the exemption request file and decides whether to grant or deny the exemption. The decision shall include an explanation of the basis on which the exemption is granted or denied, and constitutes final agency action.

[CGD 77-057a, 44 FR 66502, Nov. 19, 1979, as amended by CGD 82-063b, 48 FR 29486, June 27, 1983; CGD 88-070, 53 FR 34534, Sept. 7, 1988; CGD 95-072, 60 FR 50461, Sept. 29, 1995; CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50727, Sept. 27, 1996; CGD 97-057, 62 FR 51043, Sept. 30, 1997; USCG-2009-0702, 74 FR 49227, Sept. 25, 2009]

§ 32.53-5 Operation-T/ALL.

Unless the cargo tanks are gas free, the master of each tankship to which this subpart applies shall ensure that the inert gas system is operated as necessary to maintain an inert atmosphere in the cargo tanks.

[USCG-2001-10224, 66 FR 48619, Sept. 21, 2001]

§ 32.53-10 General—T/ALL.

(a) Each tankship to which this subpart applies must have an inert gas system that meets the requirements of this subpart and is approved in accordance with 46 CFR 50.20.

(b) Each inert gas system must be designed, constructed and installed in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS II-2, regulation 62, with the following provisions:

(1) Acceptable types of water seals include the wet and semiwet type. Other types of seals may be accepted on a case by case basis if approval is given by the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center.

(2) If a vapor collection system required to meet part 39 of this subchapter is connected to the inert gas system, the instruction manual required by SOLAS II-2, regulation 62.21 must include procedures relating to vapor collection operations.

[CGD 74-127, 41 FR 3843, Jan. 26, 1976, as amended by CGD 95-028, 62 FR 51198, Sept. 30, 1997]

§ 32.53-30 Positive pressure—T/ALL.

Each inert gas system must be designed to enable the operator to maintain a gas pressure of 100 millimeters (4 inches) of water on filled cargo tanks and during loading and unloading of cargo tanks.

[USCG-2003-16630, 73 FR 65160, Oct. 31, 2008]

Subpart 32.55—Ventilation and Venting

§ 32.55-1 Ventilation of tank vessels constructed on or after July 1, 1951—TB/ALL.

(a) On all tanks vessels, the construction or conversion of which is started on or after July 1, 1951, all enclosed parts of the vessel, other than cargo, fuel and water tanks, cofferdams and void spaces, shall be provided with efficient means of ventilation.

(b) Compartments containing machinery where sources of vapor ignition are normally present shall be ventilated in such a way as to remove vapors from points near the floor level or the bilges. Effective steam or air actuated gas ejectors, blowers or ventilators fitted with heads for natural ventilation, with at least one duct extending to immediately below the floor plates will be approved for this purpose. Machinery spaces below the freeboard deck, in which fuels with flash point of 110 °F or lower are used, shall be equipped with power ventilation. (See §32.60-20 for other requirements concerning pumprooms.)

§ 32.55-5 Ventilation of tank vessels constructed between November 10, 1936, and July 1, 1951—TB/ALL.

(a) On tank vessels, the construction or conversion of which was started on or after November 10, 1936, and prior to July 1, 1951, all enclosed parts of the vessel, other than cargo, fuel, and water tanks and cofferdams, shall be provided with efficient means of ventilation.

(b) Pumprooms and compartments containing machinery where sources of vapor ignition are normally present shall be ventilated in such a way as to remove vapors from points near the floor level or the bilges. Effective steam or air actuated gas ejectors or

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blowers or ventilators fitted with heads for natural ventilation, will be approved for this purpose. (See § 32.65-20 for other requirements concerning pumprooms.)

§ 32.55-10 Ventilation of tank vessels contracted prior to November 10, 1936—TB/ALL.

Ventilation of tank vessels, the construction or conversion of which was started prior to November 10, 1936, shall be equal to the requirements of tank vessels constructed before July 1, 1951, where the changes are, in the opinion of the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, necessary in the interest of safety.

[CGFR 65-50, 30 FR 16671, Dec. 30, 1965, as amended by CGFR 66-33, 31 FR 15268, Dec. 6, 1966]

§ 32.55-15 Ventilation for hold spaces—TB/ALL.

Hold spaces containing independent cargo tanks shall be considered to be equivalent to cargo pumprooms and shall be ventilated and safeguarded as such.

§ 32.55-20 Venting of cargo tanks of tankships constructed on or after July 1, 1951—T/ALL.

(a) *Venting required.* (1) On all tankships, the construction or conversion of which is started on or after July 1, 1951, each cargo tank shall be equipped with a vent. The diameter of a vent shall be not less than 2½ inches.

(2) In any case where a venting system is required for a particular grade of liquid, the venting system permitted for a higher grade of liquid may be used instead.

(b) *Grade A liquids.* (1) Cargo tanks in which Grade A liquids are to be transported must be fitted with a venting system consisting of a branch vent line from each cargo tank connected to a vent header which must extend to a height above the weather deck equal to at least 13.1 feet and must terminate at a comparable distance from any living or working space, ventilator inlet, or source of ignition. When special conditions will prevent the vent line or header outlets being permanently installed at a height above the deck of 13.1 feet an adjustable system must be

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provided which, when extended vertically, is capable of reaching a height of 13.1 feet.

(2) A weather hood may be installed at the vent outlet providing it is of such design as not to direct the flow of vapor below the horizontal.

(3) The branch vent lines shall consist of either:

(i) Pipe with no valves or other hindrances to a free flow of gas; or,

(ii) Piping fitted with a pressure vacuum relief valve, provided means are supplied for relieving all internal pressure on cargo tanks by fitting the valve with a positive means for opening its pressure valve to allow free passage of gases through the branch vent line or by the installation of a by-pass fitted with a manually operated stop valve.

(4) The vent header shall be fitted with a flame arrester or pressure vacuum relief valve. If a pressure vacuum relief valve is used in the header, means shall be provided for relieving all internal pressure on cargo tanks by fitting the valve with a positive means for opening its pressure valve to allow free passage of gases through the header or by the installation of a by-pass fitted with a manually operated stop valve. A suitable means of relieving pressure shall be fitted in the header in order to prevent excess pressure being built up in the tanks, in the event of overfilling of the latter. The vent header system shall be provided with suitable connections for flushing and draining. The vent header system shall be of sufficient capacity as to be able to carry off all displaced air and vapors during loading of the cargo tanks without opening of ullage plates, cargo hatches, etc. See § 32.20-20 for liquid level gaging requirements.

(c) *Grade B or C liquids.* Cargo tanks in which Grade B or C liquids are to be transported shall be fitted with either individual pressure-vacuum relief valves which shall extend to a reasonable height above the weather deck or shall be fitted with a venting system consisting of branch vent lines connected to a vent header which shall extend to a reasonable height above the weather deck and be fitted with a flame arrester or a pressure-vacuum relief valve. The vent header system, if