§ 62.35–20 Oil-fired main boilers.

(a) General. (1) All main boilers, regardless of intended mode of operation, must be provided with the automatic safety trip control system(s) of paragraphs (h)(1), (h)(2)(i), (h)(2)(ii), and (i) of this section to prevent unsafe conditions after light off.

(2) Manual alternate control of boilers must be located at the boiler front.

(3) A fully automatic main boiler must include—

(i) Automatic combustion control;
(ii) Programming control;
(iii) Automatic feedwater control;
(iv) Safety controls; and
(v) An alarm system.

(4) Following system line-up and starting of auxiliaries, fully automatic main boilers must only require the operator to initiate the following sequences:

(i) Boiler pre-purge.
(ii) Trial for ignition of burners subsequent to successful initial burner light-off.
(iii) Normal shutdown.
(iv) Manual safety trip control operation.
(v) Adjustment of primary control setpoints.

(5) All requirements for programming control subsystems and safety control systems must be met when a boiler—

(i) Automatically sequences burners;
(ii) Is operated from a location remote from the boiler front; or
(iii) Is fully automatic.

(6) Where light oil pilots are used, the programming control and burner safety trip controls must be provided for the light oil system. Trial for ignition must not exceed 15 seconds and the main burner trial for ignition must not proceed until the pilot flame is proven.

(b) Feedwater control. Automatic feedwater control subsystems must sense, at a minimum, boiler water level and steam flow.

(c) Combustion control. Automatic combustion control subsystems must provide—

(1) An air/fuel ratio which ensures complete combustion and stable flame with the fuel in use, under light off, steady state, and transient conditions; and
(2) Stable boiler steam pressure and outlet temperatures under steady state and transient load conditions; and
(3) A low fire interlock to prevent high firing rates and superheater damage during boiler warm up.

(d) Programming control. The programming control must provide a programed sequence of interlocks for the safe ignition and normal shutdown of the boiler burners. The programming control must prevent ignition if unsafe conditions exist and must include the following minimum sequence of events and interlocks:

(1) Prepurge. Boilers must undergo a continuous purge of the combustion chamber and convecting spaces to make sure of a minimum of 5 changes of air. The purge must not be less than 15 seconds in duration, and must occur immediately prior to the trial for ignition of the initial burner of a boiler. All registers and dampers must be open and an air flow of at least 25 percent of the full load volumetric air flow must be proven before the purge period commences. The prepurge must be complete before trial for ignition of the initial burner.

NOTE: A pre-purge is not required immediately after a complete post-purge.

(2) Trial for ignition and ignition. (i) Only one burner per boiler is to be in trial for ignition at any time.

(ii) Total boiler air flow during light off must be sufficient to prevent pocketing and explosive accumulations of combustible gases.

(iii) The burner igniter must be in position and proven energized before admission of fuel to the boiler. The igniter must remain energized until the burner flame is established and stable, or until the trial for ignition period ends.

(iv) The trial for ignition period must be as short as practical for the specific installation, but must not exceed 15 seconds.

(v) Failure of the burner to ignite during a trial for ignition must automatically actuate the burner safety trip controls.

(3) Post-purge. (i) Immediately after normal shutdown of the boiler, an automatic purge of the boiler equal to
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Starting systems for internal-combustion engines.

The starting systems for propulsion engines and for prime movers of ships' service generators required to start automatically must meet sections 4–6–5/9.5 and 4–8–2/11.11 of the ABS Steel Vessel Rules (incorporated by reference; see 46 CFR 62.05–1).


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Fuel systems.

(a) Level alarms. Where high or low fuel tank level alarms are required, they must be located to allow the operator adequate time to prevent an unsafe condition.

(b) Coal fuels. (1) Controls and instrumentation for coal systems require special consideration by the Commandant CG–521.

(2) Interlocks must be provided to ensure a safe transfer of machinery operation from one fuel to another.

(c) Automatic fuel heating. Automatic fuel heating must meet section 4–9–3/15.1 of the ABS Steel Vessel Rules (incorporated by reference; see 46 CFR 62.05–1).

(d) Overflow prevention. Fuel oil day tanks, settlers, and similar fuel oil service tanks that are filled automatically or by remote control must be provided with a high level alarm that annunciates in the machinery spaces and either an automatic safety trip control or an overflow arrangement.


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Tabulated monitoring and safety control requirements for specific systems.

The minimum instrumentation, alarms, and safety controls required for specific types of systems are listed in Table 62.35–50.