



OZ MARITIME

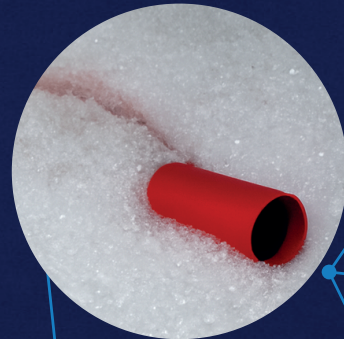
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PFAS
FREE



PROHIBITION OF FIRE-FIGHTING FOAMS

CONTAINING PFOS ONBOARD SHIPS

This Regulatory News provides an update and guidance on the latest developments regarding the prohibition of use or storage of extinguishing media containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) on board ships.

BACKGROUND

The Maritime Safety Committee adopted amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2/Reg. 10.11 (resolution MSC.532(107)) and the 1994 and 2000 HSC Codes (resolutions MSC.536(107) and MSC.537(107)), prohibiting the use and storage of fire-fighting foams containing PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) on ships. PFOS is recognized as hazardous to human health and marine life. These amendments aim to protect individuals on board from harmful substances and reduce environmental impact. The prohibition applies to both fixed and portable fire-fighting systems. The IMO received proposals to replace the term PFOS with PFAS (fluorinated substances containing at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom) in the amendments. This change would enable a complete ban on all fluorine-containing PFAS chemicals. However, it was decided that a ban on fluorinated substances in foam concentrates is not necessary at this time. The issue will be revisited if there is a need to expand the ban to include other fluorinated foam concentrates.

APPLICATION

The amendments will enter into force on January 1, 2026, prohibiting the use and storage of fire-extinguishing media containing PFOS on both new and existing ships and craft.

▪ New ships

Ships and craft constructed on or after January 1, 2026, are to comply with the new requirements at the time of delivery. The expression 'constructed' means keel laying or a similar stage of construction.

▪ Existing ships

Existing ships and craft shall comply with the new requirements at the time of the "first survey" on/or after January 1, 2026. The term "first survey" refers to whichever is due first: annual, periodical, or renewal survey for the cargo ship safety equipment certificate, cargo ship safety certificate, passenger ship safety certificate, or high-speed craft safety certificate. Provided that the fire-fighting media is found to be compliant with the new requirements at the time of the survey, there is no need to re-issue the relevant certificate.

ACTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE

- Shipowners, Operators, and Masters need to be aware of the prohibition on the use or storage of fire-extinguishing media containing PFOS. They should also ensure obtaining the manufacturer's declaration or a laboratory test report confirming that the foam concentrate complies with the new requirements in a timely manner. In case fire-fighting media containing PFOS are onboard, timely action must be taken to remove or replace them before January 1, 2026.
- When PFOS is removed from a ship, it should be delivered to appropriate shore-based reception facilities. It is recommended that this removal and subsequent delivery be duly recorded in the ship's official logbook.
- Replacement extinguishing media must be approved and certified in accordance with the applicable IMO guidelines. The approval certificate for the extinguishing media should clearly indicate that it does not contain PFOS. High-expansion foam concentrate should comply with the Guidelines for The Performance and Testing Criteria and Surveys of High-Expansion Foam Concentrates for Fixed Fire Extinguishing Systems (MSC/Circ.670), while low-expansion foam should adhere to the Revised Guidelines for the Performance and Testing Criteria, and Surveys of Foam Concentrates for Fixed Fire-Extinguishing Systems (MSC.1/Circ.1312).

KEY NOTES

Application:

- New and Existing Ships on or after January 1, 2026

References:

- MSC.532(107) including amendments to SOLAS Chapter II-2, Part C, Regulation 10 – Fire-Fighting
- MSC.536 (107) & MSC.537(107) including amendments to High-Speed Craft Codes (HSC) Chapter 7 Part A, Regulation 7.9

HOW OZ MARITIME CAN ASSIST

OZ Maritime provides full, end-to-end support to ensure vessels meet the new PFOS-free requirements smoothly and with minimum operational disruption.

Our compliance services include:

1. Removal of existing foam

Safe extraction of all foam concentrates from fixed and portable systems, including all associated hoses and storage tanks.

2. Environmentally compliant disposal

Delivery of removed foam to licensed disposal/recycling facilities. An official disposal certificate is always provided for class/PSC records.

3. Complete tank cleaning

Internal cleaning of foam tanks, pipelines and system components to eliminate any PFOS residue before refilling.

4. Refilling with IMO-approved PFOS-free foam

Supply and refilling with PFOS-free foam concentrate.
(We can also arrange the supply only, depending on your needs.)

5. Foam sampling & testing

If maker documentation is not available, OZ Maritime arranges sampling and accredited laboratory testing according to recognized standards.

6. Full documentation package

All compliance documents required by Class & Flag Administration, including:
Laboratory test reports
Disposal report
Refill certificate
PFOS-free confirmation for replacement foam

Why Work With OZ Maritime?

Multi-class approved service provider
Technicians available across Türkiye, Europe and the USA
Fast mobilisation and 24/7 support
End-to-end compliance assistance for all foam systems (deck, engine room, pump room, cargo areas)

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