25 November 2014

To: All AMSA Recognised Organisations

Memorandum on the Fitting of Safety Pins, Fixed CO2 Fire Extinguishing System Cylinder Valves

Following on from our memo to ROs, issued 13 November 2014, we have received feedback from PSCOs and ROs that there are two different types of CO2 cylinder head valves / actuators.

Safety pins are applied to all CO2 fire extinguishing systems in order to prevent the unintended release of gas from CO2 cylinders due to operator carelessness / malfunction. However, there are two types of cylinder valve as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below.

Figure 1 shows an example of the Type A cylinder valve in which the safety pin is not necessary and the pin is normally installed in the cylinder valve as a safety device during the transportation, installation and testing phases. The pin must be removed to commission the system. The CO2 system is inoperable if the safety pin is in position.

Figure 2 shows an example of the Type B cylinder valve in which the safety pin is necessary to prevent the unintended discharge of CO2 due to vibration and the pin is required to remain in place until discharge of CO2. Where the CO2 is discharged remotely from a fire control station, CO2 can be discharged without removal of the safety pin.

Action

You may wish to consider, in routine communication with shipowners and managers, advising that vessel masters should review their particular system and the manufacturer's operations manual held on board.

The memo to ROs, issued 13 November 2014 is hereby withdrawn.
Fig. 1 Cylinder valve manufactured by Tyco & SEAPLUS Co Ltd (Type A)

Fig. 2 Valve actuator manufactured by NK Co Ltd (Type B)
Yours sincerely,

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