



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-57

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**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

SUBJECT: Recreational Fire Appliances

References: (a) **RMI Yacht Code ([MI-103](#))**
(b) **[EC Directive/90/396/EEC](#), Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to appliances burning gaseous fuels, 29 June 1990**

PURPOSE

This Marine Notice (MN) provides the requirements for the design, installation, and operation of Recreational Fire Appliances (RFAs) onboard Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)-flagged yachts. It is not comprehensive, therefore each RFA must be handled on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICABILITY

This MN applies to commercial yachts, passenger yachts (PAXYs), private yachts limited charter (PYLC), and Yachts Engaged in Trade (YETs), regardless of size, with a keel laid on or after 1 January 2021. Yachts with a keel laid before 1 January 2021 must comply with this Marine Notice to the extent practicable.

DEFINITIONS

Recreational Fire Appliances (RFAs) mean fireplaces which use wood, ethanol, or liquified petroleum gas (LPG) as a primary fuel source or for ignition purposes. They include charcoal galley ovens, LPG or charcoal fire barbeques, spit roasts, and fire pits.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 General

- 1.1 Sea state conditions likely to be experienced must be considered when storing and fastening RFAs and their associated equipment. This includes, but is not limited to doors, hatches, gas bottles, shutters, and any other items that may be subject to damage due to mechanical impact from adjacent objects.

- 1.2 RFAs must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 1.3 RFAs must not be placed close to combustible materials. RFA side and rear clearances to combustible material must be in accordance with the manufacturer instructions. If no instructions are available, this distance must be at least 460 millimeters (mm).
- 1.4 Exhaust ducts must be sufficiently insulated to avoid heat transmission and not be placed in the proximity of combustible material, including in ceilings. They must be installed as required by the manufacturer. If manufacturer instructions are unavailable, the distance between the exhaust ducts and combustible material must be at least 230 mm.
- 1.5 Fully or partly enclosed internal spaces containing an RFA must be provided with a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm connected to the yacht's main and emergency power supplies.
- 1.6 Ventilation systems of internal spaces where an RFA is installed must be arranged so that the CO levels exposure is never more than nine parts per million (ppm) over eight hours (average).
- 1.7 The quantity of bioethanol and any other petrol stored onboard must not exceed the combined amount of 150 liters (L). Larger amounts must be specially considered on a case-by-case basis by the RMI Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator").
- 1.8 A suitable, readily available, portable fire extinguisher must be stored near the RFA. Where practicable, a fixed fire-extinguishing system should be installed.

2.0 Operational

- 2.1 When an RFA is installed or used onboard, a risk assessment must be conducted for each appliance type. This risk assessment must form part of the yacht's Safety Management System (SMS).
- 2.2 Crew assigned to duties in maintaining and operating the RFAs must be trained in the use of the equipment and in measures to take in case of an emergency.
- 2.3 As part of the yacht's SMS, an operational procedure must be available outlining the requirements of the type specific RFA onboard. The procedures must:
 - .1 address the regular cleaning and inspection of all equipment and associated areas;
 - .2 provide the Master with the authority and responsibility to decide, taking all conditions into account, whether and when the RFA may be used; and
 - .3 be readily available for all persons, including external caterers and their staff, involved in the RFA's operations or maintenance.

3.0 Ventilation

- 3.1 Where the RFA arrangement consists of a vent that can be closed, warning signs must be placed in a visible location to indicate that the vent must be opened before the equipment is used.
- 3.2 Ventilation ducts used for the RFA must be constructed of steel with a wall thickness of at least 3 mm and be of a type recommended by the manufacturer.
- 3.3 RFA exhaust ducts must ventilate directly to the atmosphere and be independent from any other ventilation system. Spark arrestors must be provided at the outlet of the ducts.
- 3.4 Exhaust ducts must be kept clear from any air intakes and ventilation systems serving spaces and tanks containing flammable liquids. These ducts must be located outside any dangerous zones with a distance of at least 3 meters (m).
- 3.5 Duct dimensions and capacity of the exhaust air must be in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Connections of these ducts must be kept to a minimum, gas tight and suitably located to enable inspections and maintenance.
- 3.6 Exhaust ducts and filters must be provided with easily accessible openings for cleaning and inspection.
- 3.7 Exhaust duct penetrations of a fire-rated division must be of the same fire integrity rating as the bulkhead or deck penetrated.
- 3.8 If installed, ventilation extraction systems for RFAs must be provided with an audible and visible alarm to indicate any system failure.
- 3.9 Exhaust ducts must be provided with a manually operated fire damper at the lower end of the duct. When in open position, the free area must be such that the damper does not obstruct more than 20% of the duct area and be fitted with suitable means for extinguishing and containing the fire within the duct.

4.0 Solid-fueled Fireplaces

- 4.1 Solid-fueled fireplaces must be contained by a steel enclosure provided with heat resistant glass or other non-combustible material front to prevent any burning particles from escaping from the combustion chamber.
- 4.2 The hearth of the non-combustible material (e.g., stone or tiles) must be installed and maintained as per the manufacturer's specifications.
 - 1. For solid-fueled fireplaces with an opening of less than 0.56 square meters (m²), the hearth must extend not less than 405 mm beyond the front of the fireplace and at least 200 mm beyond each side of the fireplace opening.

- .2 For solid-fueled fireplaces with an opening greater than 0.56 m², the hearth must extend not less than 510 mm beyond the front of the fireplace and at least 300 mm beyond each side of the fireplace opening.
 - .3 Regardless of the opening size, the hearth must always extend under the base of the fireplace.
 - .4 The Administrator will consider deviations from the required dimensions of solid-fueled fireplaces on a case-by-case basis.
- 4.3 Solid fuel materials must be stored in a suitable enclosed locker or space which is provided with an addressable fire detection system and a fixed fire-extinguishing system. No electrical equipment other than lighting shall be located in the store.
 - 4.4 Ashes must not be removed from the appliance until after they have been extinguished and cooled down with no warm embers remaining. The ashes must be collected into a metal container with a tight-fitting metal lid.
 - 4.5 For the purpose of MARPOL Annex V, ashes must be treated as Domestic Waste (Garbage, Category C) and be discharged to an adequate shore facility.

5.0 Ethanol-fueled Fireplaces

- 5.1 All ethanol or bioethanol fireplaces must be certified to a recognized standard such as the EU 2015/547, *Alcohol powered flueless fireplaces pursuant to Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on general product safety*.
- 5.2 Ethanol-fueled fireplaces must be contained in steel enclosures provided with heat resistant glass or other non-combustible material front.
- 5.3 The RFA must be locally protected by a suitable fixed fire-extinguishing system, which can be manually controlled by the crew in case of emergency. The fire-fighting medium release must be located outside the space containing the RFA.
- 5.4 Storage of ethanol or bioethanol must meet the [MI-103](#) requirements for stowage of gasoline, aviation fuel, and other highly flammable liquids.
- 5.5 Storage containers must be safely secured against movement and protected from damage.

6.0 LPG installations

- 6.1 An open flame gas appliance provided for cooking, heating, or any other purpose must comply with the requirements of EC Directive 90/396/EEC, or equivalent.
- 6.2 Repairs, service, or any other maintenance carried out must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or by an authorized service provider.

- 6.3 Cylinders containing LPG and their associated fittings must be secured against movement and protected from damage.
- 6.4 LPG cylinders must be stowed on an open deck or in a compartment that is vapor tight to the yacht's interior.
- 6.5 If stowed on an open deck, LPG cylinders must not be in a space exposed to the environment. Weather conditions, sea state, wind force, direct sunlight, etc., must be considered.
- 6.6 If stowed in a locker, ventilation and drainage must be provided. The drain and locker vent must be at least 500 mm away from any opening to the interior.
- 6.7 Lockers for the storage of LPG cylinders where electrical equipment, including electric detection equipment is fitted, must be certified as being flame-proof or intrinsically safe and certified for the gas being used.
- 6.8 The arrangements for storing, distributing, and using LPG must safeguard the yacht and the persons on board, considering the hazards of fire and explosion.
- 6.9 Each system containing LPG for RFA use must be fitted with readily accessible isolating valves in the supply pressure part of the system. For fixed RFA systems, these valves must be located at least three meters from the LPG cylinders and be clearly marked for their purpose.
- 6.10 Where a multiple cylinder distribution installation is used, a non-return valve must be fitted in the supply line near to the stop valve of each cylinder. If a manual or automatic change-over device is used, there must be non-return valves to isolate each depleted cylinder. A means must also be provided to prevent using the system when one cylinder is removed, unless the distribution line is fitted with a suitable gas tight plug arrangement.
- 6.11 The installation and fitting of pipework associated to the RFA and LPG system must satisfy the RO and the manufacturer's instructions. Maintaining and serving these cylinders and the associated equipment must be carried out by authorized service providers.
- 6.12 Burners and pilot flames must have a fail-safe device to stop any gas supply in the event the flame fails.
- 6.13 A suitable gas detector must be provided in the lower part of the compartment in the vicinity of the gas-consuming appliance and in other spaces into which gas may flow. This detector must be maintained and tested in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.

- 6.14 Gas detectors must be powered from the yacht's main supply and also the emergency power source. The alarms must provide an audible and visual warning in the crew mess and in the wheelhouse.

7.0 External Fire Pits

- 7.1 The fire pits must be located on an open deck in a well-ventilated position, clear of any hazard, such as overhanging combustible awnings, flammable liquids, mooring lines, etc. Appliances must not be placed internally.
- 7.2 The fire pits must be limited to the use on open decks in a safe location, clear from combustible materials, and in favorable weather conditions.
- 7.3 Deck scuppers near the fire pits must lead directly overboard.
- 7.4 A suitable portable fire extinguisher and fire blanket must be available at all times.
- 7.5 Spark guards or covers must be installed or readily available.
- 7.6 The fire pit must not be left unattended when in use. It must be fully extinguished after use.
- 7.7 Fuel materials must be stored in a suitable enclosed locker or space which is provided with an addressable fire detection system and a fixed fire-extinguishing system.
- 7.8 Ashes must be removed from the appliance only after they have been extinguished so that no warm embers remain. The ashes must be collected into a metal container with a tight-fitting metal lid.
- 7.9 For the purpose of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V, ashes must be treated as Domestic Waste (Garbage, Category C) and be discharged to an adequate shore facility.

8.0 Barbecues and Spit Roasts for Use on Open Decks

- 8.1 Barbeques and spit roasts must be located on an open deck in a well-ventilated position, clear of any hazard, such as overhanging combustible awnings, flammable liquids, mooring lines, etc.
- 8.2 A suitable portable fire extinguisher and fire blanket must be available at all times.
- 8.3 Spark guards or covers must be installed or readily available.
- 8.4 The appliance must be suitably screened and provided with a fixed collecting tray, secured to the deck, or directly below the appliance, to prevent fat, hot ash, etc. falling onto the deck.

- 8.5 Charcoal ashes must be removed from the appliance only after they have been extinguished so that no warm embers remain. The ashes must be collected into a metal container with a tight-fitting metal lid.
- 8.6 For the purpose of MARPOL Annex V, ashes must be treated as Domestic Waste (Garbage, Category C) and be discharged to an adequate shore facility.
- 8.7 Fuel materials must be stored in a suitable enclosed locker or space which is provided with an addressable fire detection system and a fixed fire-extinguishing system.

9.0 Charcoal Galley Ovens

- 9.1 Non-combustible insulation must be installed between the oven base and the unit it is installed on to avoid direct or indirect heat transmission.
- 9.2 Air supply ventilation arrangements must be capable of being remotely shut off from the appliance. They must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 9.3 A fire break and cowl must be fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 9.4 Charcoal ashes must be removed from the appliance only after they have been extinguished so that no warm embers remain. The ashes must be collected into a metal container with a tight-fitting metal lid.
- 9.5 For the purpose of MARPOL Annex V, ashes must be treated as Domestic Waste (Garbage, Category C) and be discharged to an adequate shore facility.
- 9.6 Fuel materials must be stored in a suitable enclosed locker or space which has an addressable fire detection system and a fixed fire-extinguishing system.