

Part B - Prevention of Fire and Explosion

Regulation 6 - Smoke Generation Potential and Toxicity

1. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to reduce the hazard to life from smoke and toxic products generated during a fire in spaces where persons normally work or live. For this purpose, the quantity of smoke and toxic products released from combustible materials, including surface finishes, during fire shall be limited.

2. Paints, varnishes and other finishes

Paints, varnishes and other finishes used on exposed interior surfaces shall not be capable of producing excessive quantities of smoke and toxic products, this being determined in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures Code.

3. Primary deck coverings

Primary deck coverings, if applied within accommodation and service spaces and control stations, shall be of approved material which will not give rise to smoke or toxic or explosive hazards at elevated temperatures, this being determined in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures Code.

MCA Guidance

G1 Regulation 5 does not indicate that low flame spread rating applies to the surfaces of furniture, furnishings, machinery and similar items. However furniture, other than any upholstered parts, should not be constructed of organic foams, cork or any other highly flammable materials or other materials capable of producing large quantities of smoke or toxic products. This does not apply to wood or wood products, surface finishes such as laminates and veneers and plastic trim, skirtings etc. Also whilst regulation 5.3.3 permits decorative flower or plant arrangements in corridors it is recommended that any such items and their supports be not readily ignitable to a suitable standard.

G2 Smoke and toxicity rating of finishes

G2.1 This requirement applies to the finishes of bulkheads, linings, ceilings and the surface deck coverings in corridors, stairway enclosures and rooms containing furniture and furnishings of restricted fire risk.

G3 A primary deck covering is to be regarded as the first layer of a floor construction which is applied directly on top of the deck plating and is inclusive of any priming coat, anti-corrosive compound or adhesive which is necessary to provide protection or adhesion to the deck plating. This is the definition of a primary deck covering in Annex 1 Part 5.3.2.2 of the Fire Test Procedures Code.

G4 Every primary deck covering used in accommodation spaces, service spaces and control stations is to be of an approved type and should be laid in accordance with the conditions in the approval certificate. Also see regulation 4.4.4 referring to not readily ignitable.