



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
NOAA Small Boat Program  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115-6349

22 June 2020

**MEMORANDUM FROM:** NOAA Small Boat Program

**SUBJECT:** Safety Notice

This safety notice is clarification to the Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual (SBSPM) Version 4.1.

Section 10, Table 2 of the SBSPM requires a “Fixed Fire system for enclosed machinery spaces”. Also, Vessel Inspection Bulletin 01-10 contains specific information referencing 46 CFR 181.400 thru 181.420 and is still current for the installation and inspection of Fixed Gas Fire Extinguishing systems. 46 CFR 182.465 is used for specifics on ventilation of the machinery spaces and is incorporated by reference in the SBSPM.

46 CFR 182.465 (Ventilation of spaces containing diesel machinery) contains a reference to American Yacht and Boat Council (ABYC) H-32 is as an alternative standard for specific types of commercial vessels. NOAA does not accept this standard as alternative on any of its vessels whether gas or diesel powered. This will be incorporated into the forthcoming SBSPM Version 4.2.

**Provision must be made for closing all supply duct cowls or scoops and exhaust duct discharge openings for any space protected by a fixed gas extinguishing system. All closure devices must be readily available and mounted in the vicinity of the vent.**

This does not apply to SOLAS approved rescue boats carried by requirement aboard NOAA Ships. Former rescue boats used by shore-based units must retro fit a fixed gas system in compliance with the above requirements.

Closure of ventilation openings prior to or immediately after a discharge of a fixed system provides the best chance of success to extinguishing machinery space fires and preventing re-flashes.

The SBP and its staff are always available to anyone needing further technical assistance or clarification of the above specifications.

