

ITEM: DRAIN VALVE FIRE CAPS

FINDING: Drain valve fire caps missing



Drain valve with fire cap



Drain valve - design without fire cap (no defect)



Drain valve, fire cap AND non-return system missing



Drain valve, here with fire cap closed

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

TECHNICAL DATA : DRAIN VALVE FIRE CAPS

- The fire caps are intended to be kept open during normal operation of the vessel
- Only in case of a fire, all openings to the cargo hold should be possible to close. This includes fire caps.

SOLAS reference:

- For vessels >2000 GT exempted from a fixed CO₂ system: SOLAS Ch II-2 part C, Reg 10.7.1.4 “Such exemptions [from a fixed CO₂ system] may be granted only if the ship is fitted with steel hatch covers and effective means of closing ventilators and other openings leading to the cargo spaces”
- For vessels fitted with a fixed CO₂ system: SOLAS Ch II-2 part C, Reg 10.4.2 “Where a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is used, openings which may admit air to, or allow gas to escape from, a protected space shall be capable of being closed from outside the protected space”

ISSUE WHEN THE FIRE CAPS ARE MISSING

- When there are no fire caps for the drain valves on board, this reduces the efficacy of fire suppression / firefighting in the cargo hold.
- Note: fire caps can be present in the fire locker instead of being attached to the drain valves where they may wash away in heavy weather.
- For ArcelorMittal cargoes, there is little risk for fire in the cargo hold. Therefore, this deficiency is a non-scoring item for ArcelorMittal. It is however brought to your attention for sake of completeness.

WHAT KIND OF FEEDBACK IS EXPECTED?

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

- Order note of fire caps to properly close off all cargo hold openings

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Explanation on how this matter will be controlled in the future