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## RE-APPLYING PAINTS, VARNISHES AND OTHER FINISHES TO INTERIOR SURFACES

### Notice to all Builders, Owners, Employers, Skippers and Crews of Fishing Vessels

*This notice supersedes MGN163 (F)*

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#### Summary

This notice gives advice on the re-application of paints, varnishes and other finishes to interior surfaces, in the form of a “Do’s and Don’ts” Annex.

#### 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Following an investigation by the Marine Accident investigation Branch into the loss of a fishing vessel due to fire, it was shown that over-painted interior surfaces had a significant influence in the rapid spread of flame.

#### 2 What to do

2.1 When re-applying interior paints, varnishes or other finishes, the “Do’s and Don’ts” listed in attached Annex should be used as guidance.

## Further Information

Further information on the contents of this Notice can be obtained from:

Fishing and Code Vessels Safety Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/05  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9150  
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9447  
e-mail: [fishing@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:fishing@mcga.gov.uk)

General Inquiries: 24 Hour Infoline  
[infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)  
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MCA Website Address: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

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## ANNEX

### When Re-painting

#### DO

- Remove existing paintwork to a level of bare wood, to avoid an excessive build up of paint layers.
- When removing old paintwork, bear in mind the risk of fire and the potential damage to cables and pipework.
- Ensure that the paint, varnish or other finish, when re-applied to bulkheads, ceilings, panelling and linings, has low flame spread properties in compliance with either the Fire Test Procedure Code IMO Resolution A653 (16) or BS 476 Part 7 1997 (Class 1 or 2).
- Ensure that paints, varnishes and other finishes used on exposed interior surfaces shall not be capable of producing excessive quantities of smoke and toxic products, in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures Code
- Consider any hidden areas of interior surfaces and leave as bare wood wherever possible.
- Use non-combustible materials around vulnerable areas, particularly in the vicinity of open flame cooking stoves.

#### DON'T

- Allow excessive layers of any paint, varnish or other finishes to build up.
- Re-paint low flame spread paints over layers of existing paint. This will reduce its performance.
- Exceed the recommendations of the manufacturer for the required number of layers.