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## Important information regarding new standards for SOLAS Fire Suits

**06-02-2023**

Recent changes in regulations from the EN469 2005 standard to EN469 2020 have apparently been causing some uncertainty regarding SOLAS Fire suits requirements for Level 1 or 2 Water penetration (Y).

According to the new standard there are three criteria that are classified as level 1 or 2, e.g. (Y1) or (Y2)

- Thermal Performance (X)
- Water Penetration Resistance (Y)
- Breathability/Water Vapor Resistance (Z)



X1 or X2  
Y1 or Y2  
Z1 or Z2

**EN469:2020**

The major difference in Water Penetration Resistance is that (Y2) is a fire suit with a moisture barrier and (Y1) is a fire suit without. Both fire suits are approved according to EN 469:2020.

The MED directive requires that fire suits must be EN 469:2020 approved. There is no specified classification level for each criteria:

## REGULATIONS

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/1158**

**of 22 June 2021**

**on design, construction and performance requirements and testing standards for marine equipment and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1170**

**(Text with EEA relevance)**





1	2	3	4	5	6
MED/3.3a Fire-fighter's outfit: protective clothing (close proximity clothing): — protective non reflective clothing for firefighting Row 2 of 2 (NEW ROW)	Type approval requirements — SOLAS 74 Reg. II-2/10, — SOLAS 74 Reg. X/3, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.  Carriage and performance requirements — SOLAS 74 Reg. II-2/10, — IMO Res. MSC.36(63)-(1994 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.97(73)-(2000 HSC Code) 7, — IMO Res. MSC.98(73)-(FSS Code) 3.	— EN 469:2020	B+D B+E B+F	25.8.2021	

At the same time, EMSA has issued *EU GUIDANCE ON THE CARRIAGE OF AVS IN RO-RO SPACES*. In this guidance they recommend classification level 2 for all three criteria including Water Penetration Resistance (Y2) for the Ro-Ro segment (see below).

### 2.4.2 Fire suits and specifications

Compared to conventional vehicles, AFVs does not, to today's knowledge, introduce any additional specifications of the fire suits. The suit should be certified according to EN 469:2020 and fulfil level 2 for heat protection, water penetration and water vapor resistance (indicated with X2, Y2 and Z2). Note that MED also allows level 1, which has a lower level of protection and should not be used. Furthermore, the firefighter should wear a hood (balaclava), to protect exposed areas of the head and neck. Such hoods are not (yet) included in MED and can instead be approved according to EN 13911:2017. Full-coverage clothing should be worn under the suit, and it is recommended that the fire station is equipped with undergarments for any firefighter arriving without wearing long sleeves.

Also ensure that the firefighter can work with both hands free and does not have to hold, for example, a flashlight or radio in their hand. Additionally, it is recommended that each smoke diver has access to a personal communication device, which can be easily operated while wearing the full equipment.

It is important to note that this is a recommendation and not a requirement. You can find this publication on EMSA's website: <https://bit.ly/3RDNTlu>.





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## **All VIKING SOLAS Fire Suits are EN469:2020 approved**

All VIKING SOLAS Fire suits have been upgraded to fulfil the new standards. They are approved according EN469:2020 and can therefore be used on marine and offshore vessels. The fire suits are certified according to both the Marine Equipment Directive (MED) and PPE regulations (CE).

Some VIKING models have a moisture barrier and therefore have a Water Penetration Resistance classification (Y2) while those without a moisture barrier have a Water Penetration Resistance classification (Y1). Again, both of these types are approved to EN469:2020. The (Y1) or (Y2) classification does not affect this.

Therefore you can rest assured that VIKING SOLAS fire suits are in full compliance with regulations. You are welcome to contact your local VIKING representative if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**VIKING Life-Saving Equipment A/S**

Charlotte Nielsen Global Product Manager, PPE Water

