

Lloyd's Register Rulefinder 2023 - Version 9.38

Statutory Documents - IMO Publications and Documents - International Conventions - SOLAS - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea - Chapter II-1 - Construction - Structure, subdivision and stability, machinery and electrical installations - Part B-2 - Subdivision, Watertight and Weathertight Integrity - Regulation 9 - Double bottoms in passenger ships and cargo ships other than tankers

Regulation 9 - *Double bottoms in passenger ships and cargo ships other than tankers*

1 A double bottom shall be fitted extending from the collision bulkhead to the afterpeak bulkhead, as far as this is practicable and compatible with the design and proper working of the ship.

2 Where a double bottom is required to be fitted, the inner bottom shall be continued out to the ship's sides in such a manner as to protect the bottom to the turn of the bilge. Such protection will be deemed satisfactory if the inner bottom is not lower at any part than a plane parallel with the keel line and which is located not less than a vertical distance h measured from the keel line, as calculated by the formula:

$$h = B/20$$

However, in no case is the value of h to be less than 760 mm, and need not be taken as more than 2,000 mm.

3.1 Small wells constructed in the double bottom in connection with drainage arrangements shall not extend downward more than necessary. The vertical distance from the bottom of such a well to a plane coinciding with the keel line shall not be less than $h/2$ or 500 mm, whichever is greater, or compliance with paragraph 8 of this regulation shall be shown for that part of the ship.

3.2 Other wells (e.g. for lubricating oil under main engines) may be permitted by the Administration if satisfied that the arrangements give protection equivalent to that afforded by a double bottom complying with this regulation.

3.2.1 For a cargo ship of 80 m in length and upwards or for a passenger ship, proof of equivalent protection is to be shown by demonstrating that the ship is capable of withstanding bottom damages as specified in paragraph 8. Alternatively, wells for lubricating oil below main engines may protrude into the double bottom below the boundary line defined by the distance h provided that the vertical distance between the well bottom and a plane coinciding with the keel line is not less than $h/2$ or 500 mm, whichever is greater.

3.2.2 For cargo ships of less than 80 m in length the arrangements shall provide a level of safety to the satisfaction of the Administration.

4 A double bottom need not be fitted in way of watertight tanks, including dry tanks of moderate size,

provided the safety of the ship is not impaired in the event of bottom or side damage.

5 In the case of passenger ships to which the provisions of [regulation 1.5](#) apply and which are engaged on regular service within the limits of a short international voyage as defined in [regulation III/3.22](#), the Administration may permit a double bottom to be dispensed with if satisfied that the fitting of a double bottom in that part would not be compatible with the design and proper working of the ship.

6 Any part of a cargo ship of 80 m in length and upwards or of a passenger ship that is not fitted with a double bottom in accordance with paragraphs 1, 4 or 5, as specified in paragraph 2, shall be capable of withstanding bottom damages, as specified in paragraph 8, in that part of the ship. For cargo ships of less than 80 m in length the alternative arrangements shall provide a level of safety to the satisfaction of the Administration.

7 In the case of unusual bottom arrangements in a cargo ship of 80 m in length and upwards or a passenger ship, it shall be demonstrated that the ship is capable of withstanding bottom damages as specified in paragraph 8. For cargo ships of less than 80 m in length the alternative arrangements shall provide a level of safety to the satisfaction of the Administration.

8 Compliance with paragraphs 3.1, 3.2.1, 6 or 7 is to be achieved by demonstrating that s_p , when calculated in accordance with [regulation 7-2](#), is not less than 1 for all service conditions when subject to bottom damage with an extent specified in subparagraph .2 below for any position in the affected part of the ship:

.1 Flooding of such spaces shall not render emergency power and lighting, internal communication, signals or other emergency devices inoperable in other parts of the ship.

.2 Assumed extent of damage shall be as follows:

	For 0.3 L from the forward perpendicular of the ship	Any other part of the ship
Longitudinal extent	$1/3 L^{2/3}$ or 14.5 m, whichever is less	$1/3 L^{2/3}$ or 14.5 m, whichever is less
Transverse extent	$B/6$ or 10 m, whichever is less	$B/6$ or 5 m, whichever is less
Vertical extent, measured from the keel line	$B/20$, to be taken not less than 0.76 m and not more than 2 m	$B/20$, to be taken not less than 0.76 m and not more than 2 m

.3 If any damage of a lesser extent than the maximum damage specified in .2 would result in a more severe condition, such damage should be considered.

9 In case of large lower holds in passenger ships, the Administration may require an increased double bottom height of not more than $B/10$ or 3 m, whichever is less, measured from the keel line. Alternatively, bottom damages may be calculated for these areas, in accordance with paragraph 8, but assuming an

increased vertical extent.

Parent topic: [Part B-2 - Subdivision, Watertight and Weathertight Integrity](#)

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