

1. List key milestones in the development of SOLAS fire safety requirements

- 1914:** The first version of the SOLAS Convention, containing basic fire safety requirements, was adopted in response to the sinking of the RMS *'Titanic'* in 1912. However, it was not enforced due to WWI.

1929: The second version of SOLAS was adopted, incorporating fire safety requirements such as fireproof bulkheads. It entered into force in 1933.

1948: Incidents such as the SS *'Morro Castle'* fire led to the development of non-combustible construction regulations. (The ocean liner SS *'Morro Castle'* caught fire and grounded on 8th September 1934 with the loss of 137 passengers and crew.)

1960: SOLAS passenger ship fire safety requirements were extended to cargo ships.

1974: Introduction of non-combustible materials and fire protection systems for new passenger ships under the revised SOLAS Convention.

1981: SOLAS Chapter II-2 was amended to include halogenated hydrocarbon fire extinguishing systems and tanker inert gas (IG) systems.

1990: Following the MS *'Scandinavian Star'* disaster (the ferry caught fire on an overnight voyage on 7th April 1990, with the loss of 159 lives), the IMO initiated a review of fire safety measures.

1992: Improved fire protection and evacuation measures were introduced, including automatic sprinklers and smoke detectors.

1996: Changes to fire safety measures were introduced for passenger ships, cargo ships and tankers.

1996: The IMO developed the International Code for the Application of Fire Test Procedures (FTP Code), which became mandatory on 1st July 1998. It detailed requirements for laboratory testing, type approval and fire test procedures for materials used on board ships.

2000: A revised SOLAS Chapter II-2 was adopted with a focus on the “*fire scenario process*”. It entered into force on 1st July 2002. The International Fire Safety Systems Code (FSS Code) was also introduced.

Emergency escape breathing devices (EEBDs) were made mandatory.

2002: The use of halon was prohibited for new installations on existing ships due to environmental concerns under the Montreal Protocol.

2023: Enactment of the Merchant Shipping (Fire Protection) Regulations 2023, which replaced earlier regulations. This legislation incorporated updates from SOLAS Chapter II-2 and ensured alignment with international standards through ambulatory references.