

(b) The material approved for incorporation by reference in this part and the sections affected are:

American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), 3069 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD 21037-1416	
H-25-1986—Portable Fuel Systems for Flammable Liquids	27.211
H-33-1989—Diesel Fuel Systems .....	27.211
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101	
NFPA 302-1998—Fire Protection Standard for Pleasure, and Commercial Motorcraft .....	27.211
NFPA 750—Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems, 2003 edition .....	27.101
NFPA 2001—Standard on Clean Agent Fire Extinguishing Systems, 2000 edition ...	27.101
Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001	
SAE J1475-1984—Hydraulic Hose Fitting for Marine Applications .....	27.211
SAE J1942-1989—Hose and Hose Assemblies for Marine Applications .....	27.211

**Subpart B—Fire-Protection Measures for Towing Vessels**

**§ 27.201 What are the requirements for general alarms on towing vessels?**

- (a) You must ensure that your vessel is fitted with a general alarm that:
  - (1) Has a contact-maker at the operating station that can notify persons on board in the event of an emergency.
  - (2) Is capable of notifying persons in any accommodation, work space, and the engine room.
  - (3) Has installed, in the engine room and any other area where background noise makes a general alarm hard to

hear, a supplemental flashing red light that is identified with a sign that reads:

Attention General Alarm—When Alarm Sounds or Flashes Go to Your Station.

- (4) Is tested at least once each week.
- (b) You or the operator may use a public-address (PA) system or other means of alerting all persons on your towing vessel instead of a general alarm, if the system—
  - (1) Is capable of notifying persons in any accommodation, work space, and the engine room;
  - (2) Is tested at least once each week;
  - (3) Can be activated from the operating station; and
  - (4) Complies with paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

**§ 27.203 What are the requirements for fire detection on towing vessels?**

You must have a fire-detection system installed on your vessel to detect engine-room fires. Any owner of a vessel whose construction was contracted for before January 18, 2000, may use an existing engine-room-monitoring system (with fire-detection capability) instead of a fire-detection system, if the monitoring system is operable and complies with this section. You must ensure that—

- (a) Each detector, each control panel, and each fire alarm are approved under 46 CFR subpart 161.002 or listed by an independent testing laboratory; except that, if you use an existing engine-room-monitoring system (with fire-detection capability), each detector must be listed by an independent testing laboratory;
- (b) The system is installed, tested, and maintained in line with the manufacturer's design manual;
- (c) The system is arranged and installed so a fire in the engine room automatically sets off alarms on a control panel at the operating station;
- (d) The control panel includes—
  - (1) A power-available light;
  - (2) Both an audible alarm to notify crew at the operating station of fire and visible alarms to identify the zone or zones of origin of the fire;
  - (3) A means to silence the audible alarm while maintaining indication by the visible alarms;

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(4) A circuit-fault detector test-switch; and

(5) Labels for all switches and indicator lights, identifying their functions;

(e) The system draws power from two sources, switchover from the primary source to the secondary source being either manual or automatic;

(f) The system serves no other purpose, unless it is an engine-room-monitoring system (with fire-detection capability) installed on a vessel whose construction was contracted for before January 18, 2000; and

(g) The system is certified by a Registered Professional Engineer, or by a recognized classification society (under 46 CFR part 8), to comply with paragraphs (a) through (f) of this section.

**§ 27.205 What are the requirements for internal communication systems on towing vessels?**

(a) You must ensure that your vessel is fitted with a communication system between the engine room and the operating station that—

(1) Consists of either fixed or portable equipment, such as a sound-powered telephone, portable radios, or other reliable method of voice communication, with a main or reserve power supply that is independent of the electrical system on your towing vessel; and

(2) Provides two-way voice communication and calling between the operating station and either—

(i) The engine room; or

(ii) A location immediately adjacent to an exit from the engine room.

(b) Twin-screw vessels with operating-station control for both engines are not required to have internal communication systems.

(c) When the operating-station's engine controls and the access to the engine room are within 3 meters (10 feet) of each other and allow unobstructed visual contact between them, direct voice communication is acceptable instead of a communication system.

**§ 27.207 What are the requirements for fuel shut-offs on towing vessels?**

To stop the flow of fuel in the event of a break in the fuel line, you must have a positive, remote fuel-shut-off valve fitted on any fuel line that sup-

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plies fuel directly to an engine or generator. The valve must be near the source of supply (for instance, at the day tank, storage tank, or fuel-distribution manifold). Furthermore, it must be operable from a safe place outside the space where the valve is installed. Each remote valve control should be marked in clearly legible letters, at least 25 millimeters (1 inch) high, indicating the purpose of the valve and the way to operate it.

**§ 27.209 What are the requirements for training crews to respond to fires?**

(a) *Drills and instruction.* The master or person in charge of a vessel must ensure that each crewmember participates in drills and receives instruction at least once each month. The instruction may coincide with the drills, but need not. You must ensure that all crewmembers are familiar with their fire-fighting duties, and, specifically, with the following contingencies:

(1) Fighting a fire in the engine room and elsewhere on board the vessel, including how to—

(i) Operate all of the fire-extinguishing equipment on board the vessel;

(ii) Stop any mechanical ventilation system for the engine room and effectively seal all natural openings to the space to prevent leakage of the extinguishing agent; and

(iii) Operate the fuel shut-off for the engine room.

(2) Activating the general alarm.

(3) Reporting inoperative alarm systems and fire-detection systems.

(4) Putting on a fireman's outfit and a self-contained breathing apparatus, if the vessel is so equipped.

(b) *Alternative form of instruction.* The master or person in charge of a vessel may substitute, for the instruction required in paragraph (a) of this section, the viewing of video training materials concerning at least the contingencies listed in paragraph (a), followed by a discussion led by someone familiar with these contingencies. This instruction may occur either on board or off the vessel.

(c) *Participation in drills.* Drills must take place on board the vessel, as if there were an actual emergency. They must include—