

NFPA 312

Standard for Fire Protection of Vessels During Construction, Conversion, Repair, and Lay-Up

2006 Edition



NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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Standard for

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This edition of NFPA 312, *Standard for Fire Protection of Vessels During Construction, Conversion, Repair, and Lay-Up*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Shipbuilding, Repair, and Lay-Up and acted on by NFPA at its June Association Technical Meeting held June 6–10, 2005, in Las Vegas, NV. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 29, 2005, with an effective date of August 18, 2005, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 312 was approved as an American National Standard on August 18, 2005.

Origin and Development of NFPA 312

The first standard on this subject was adopted by NFPA in 1933 on the recommendation of its Marine Committee, predecessor of the Marine Section. The standard was further considered in 1935, 1936, and 1937, and it was finally adopted by the Association in 1938 on the recommendation of the Marine Section Committee on Builders Risk, Repair, and Lay-Up. Editorial changes were made in 1942.

With the reorganization of NFPA marine activities in 1948, responsibility for the standard fell to the Committee on Shipbuilding, Repair, and Lay-Up. Its recommendations were adopted by the Association in 1950 (Parts I and II) and 1951 (Part III), and revised editions were adopted in 1964, 1968, 1976, and 1984.

The 1990 edition of NFPA 312 was a complete revision that incorporated expanded requirements for vessel lay-up and an update of the fire protection requirements for vessels undergoing construction, conversion, and repair.

The 1995 edition consisted of amendments and editorial changes to the 1990 edition.

The 2000 edition consisted of amendments and editorial changes to the 1995 edition.

For the 2006 edition, the entire standard has been revised in accordance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. Changes made to OSHA 1915 Subpart P, requirements for fire watch (29 CFR 1915.504), and fixed extinguishing systems (29 CFR 1915.506) have been incorporated into the appropriate sections of the standard.

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This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on safeguarding against the fire and explosion hazards associated with vessels in course of construction, under repair, and during lay-up.

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NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex B. Editorial changes to extracted material consist of revising references to an appropriate division in this document or the inclusion of the document number with the division number when the reference is to the original document. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex B.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope.

1.1.1 This standard shall apply to vessels during the course of construction, conversion, repairs, or while laid up.

1.1.2 This standard shall not apply to situations where it is in conflict with or superseded by requirements of any government regulatory agency.

1.2* Purpose. Every reasonable means of preventing fire shall be provided and supplemented by means of detection and protection equipment that permit the prompt discovery, retard the spread, and permit extinguishment of any fire before it has passed the incipient stage.

1.2.1 These fire-fighting methods shall include full coordination and cooperation with municipal fire departments.

1.2.2 Nothing in this document shall be construed as prohibiting the immediate dry-docking of a vessel whose safety is imperiled, as by being in a sinking condition or by being seriously damaged.

1.2.3 In such cases, all necessary precautionary measures shall be taken as soon as practicable.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 10, *Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, 2002 edition.

NFPA 51B, *Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work*, 2003 edition.

NFPA 70, *National Electrical Code®*, 2005 edition.

NFPA 306, *Standard for the Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels*, 2003 edition.

NFPA 307, *Standard for the Construction and Fire Protection of Marine Terminals, Piers, and Wharves*, 2006 edition.

2.3 Other Publication. Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA 2003.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 306, *Standard for the Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels*, 2003 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3 Labeled. Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation, that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials, and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

3.2.4* Listed. Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services, that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services, and whose listing states that either the equipment, material, or service meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

3.2.5 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.6 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.