



# Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office

Bulletin 31-09

## Navigation and Locks – Red Flag Vessels

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (yellow book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for perimeter protection as stated below.

19.1.01 Smoking, open flames, or other ignition sources shall be prohibited on lock structures within 50 ft (15.2 m) of vessels containing hazardous cargos of flammable or other hazardous materials (“Red Flag” vessels) during approach and lockage.

a. When construction, maintenance, and other non-navigational related activities are taking place on or adjacent to the lock structure, the Lock Master will relay information to supervisory personnel in these activities regarding the approach and passage of Red Flag vessels.

b. The Lock Master or Work Crew supervisor may suspend hot work at their discretion during the approach and passage of Red Flag vessels.

c. Prior to the start of work on these activities, the Work Crew Supervisor will establish safe zones that maintain at least the minimum 50 ft (15.2 m) required distance between Red Flag vessels and sources of ignition such as hot work and smoking areas.

(1) The minimum distance shall be calculated vertically and horizontally throughout a lock chamber when the chamber is pumped out for maintenance.

(2) These zones shall be marked, barricaded, or otherwise designated so personnel can easily distinguish them.

(3) The location of and restricted activities within these zones shall be included in the activity AHA and discussed with workers prior to start of work.



*Please post and share with others*

7-21-09