



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE
SHIPPING CIRCULAR
NO. 4 OF 2016

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Applicable to: Shipowners, shipmanagers, operators, agents and masters of Singapore-registered ships

USE OF INAPPROPRIATE FUEL TO IGNITE AND SUSTAIN BARBECUE ON-BOARD FOR SOCIAL EVENTS

1. This circular brings to the attention of the shipping community on the importance to recognise the dangers of conducting barbecue onboard ships.
2. Several incidents involving make-shift barbecue pits have occurred recently onboard ships causing a fire or explosion at the site, resulting in the officers and crew receiving 2nd and 3rd degree burns. The officers and crew have had to be evacuated from the vessel and received extensive treatment ashore. Investigation into these incidents have revealed that the persons preparing the barbecue had used a paint thinner¹ [inappropriate fuel] to light up the charcoal or sustain the fire on the barbecue pit.
3. Shipowners and Masters are reminded that the conduct of barbecue parties, where permitted by company's Safety Management System (SMS), should be given due consideration on the risks of fire and explosion when lighting such fires. The risks should be adequately addressed within the SMS and at no time should inappropriate fuel be used.
4. Queries relating to this circular should be directed to Ship Investigation Department at Tel: 6375-6217 or email: ivd@mpa.gov.sg

TAN SUAN JOW
DIRECTOR OF MARINE
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

¹ Paint thinner is a solvent used to thin oil-based paints or clean up after their use. Commercially, solvents labelled "Paint Thinner" are usually mineral spirits having a flash point at about 40 °C (104 °F).