



# Standard Test Method for Shock Testing of Structural Insulation of A-Class Divisions Constructed of Steel or Aluminum<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2877/F2877M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

<sup>ε1</sup> NOTE—Editorially corrected the designation to reflect dual units of measurement statement (1.5) in October 2013.

## INTRODUCTION

Passive fire protection materials have been required and used on commercial ships for decades. The passive systems include the non-combustible insulation material and its means of attachment to steel or aluminum divisions. The passive system has been evaluated in a standard fire test using a standard steel or aluminum structural core. No impact loading has been required prior to testing for fire resistance.

The United States Navy requires shock testing of passive fire protection prior to fire resistance testing; this test is defined in MIL-STD-3020, Fire Resistance of U.S. Naval Surface Ships, 7 November, 2007. The technology to economically shock test the passive fire protection systems was developed 50 years ago, and equipment in commercial laboratories is available.

After the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 it is our responsibility that we add a level of shock protection to our passive fire protection systems on commercial ships where appropriate.<sup>2</sup> Many of the passive fire protection systems used today are mechanically fastened and will perform the intended function after a shock event.

Passive fire protection insulation may have thermal or acoustic treatments added to the insulated division. These treatments add mass to the fire protection system and their effect on shock is not included in this specification.

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## 1. Scope

1.1 The purpose of the specification is to evaluate insulation installed on steel or aluminum structural division as defined in

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F25 on Ships and Marine Technology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F25.02 on Insulation/Processes.

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<sup>2</sup> JOM, 53(12), 2001 pp 8-12 and www.nist.gov/public.affairs/releases/wtc-briefing-april0505.htm

IMO resolution A.754 (18) to ensure the insulation is not degraded in the event of a shock.

1.2 The non-combustible passive fire protection insulation shall be installed, which will meet the highest level of commercial fire resistance expected. Lower levels of fire resistance will be allowed without additional shock testing.

1.3 This test method is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire-hazard or fire-risk assessment of the materials, products or assemblies under actual fire conditions.

1.4 Fire testing is inherently hazardous. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property shall be employed in conducting these tests.

1.5 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>3</sup>

[E176 Terminology of Fire Standards](#)

### 2.2 International Maritime Code: International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures, ISBN 92-801-1452-2<sup>4</sup>:

[A.754 \(18\) Recommendation on Fire Resistance Tests for “A,” “B,” and “F” Class Divisions](#)

### 2.3 United States Military Documents:

[MIL-S-901D Requirements for Shock Tests H.I. \(High Impact\) Shipboard Machinery, Equipment, and Systems<sup>5</sup>](#)

[NAVSEAINST 9491.ID Approved Class HI Shock Testing Machines<sup>6</sup>](#)

[MIL-STD-3020 Fire Resistance of U.S. Navy Surface Ships<sup>7</sup>](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 Refer to Terminology [E176](#) for general terms associated with fire issues.

### 3.2 Definitions:

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>4</sup> Available from IMO Publishing Service, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom, email: [publication-sales@imo.org](mailto:publication-sales@imo.org)

<sup>5</sup> Available on the internet at [www.dtbtest.com/PDFS/MIL-S-901D.pdf](http://www.dtbtest.com/PDFS/MIL-S-901D.pdf) 5 6

<sup>6</sup> Available on the internet at [nsdb.navsses.navy.mil/Approved %20Class%20HI%20Shock%20Testing%20Machines.pdf](http://nsdb.navsses.navy.mil/Approved%20Class%20HI%20Shock%20Testing%20Machines.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Available on the internet at [www.dtbtest.com/PDFS/MIL-S-901D.pdf](http://www.dtbtest.com/PDFS/MIL-S-901D.pdf)

3.2.1 *A-Class division*—“A” class divisions in accordance with Part 3 of IMO FTP Code are those divisions formed by bulkheads and decks which comply with the following criteria:

(a) They are constructed of steel or other equivalent material;

(b) They are suitably stiffened;

(c) They are insulated with approved non-combustible materials such that the average temperature of the unexposed side will not rise more than 140°C above the original temperature, nor will the temperature, at any one point, including any joint, rise more than 180°C above the original temperature, with the time listed below:

class “A-60”	60 min
class “A-30”	30 min
class “A-15”	15 min
class “A-0”	0 min

(d) They are so constructed as to be capable of preventing the passage of smoke and flame to the end of the one-hour standard fire test; and

(e) The Administration required a test of a prototype bulkhead or deck in accordance with the Fire Test Procedures Code to ensure that it meets the above requirements for integrity and temperature rise.

3.2.2 *fire resistance, n*—the ability of a material, product, or assembly to withstand fire or give protection from it for a period of time.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Fire resistance is the ability of a division or boundary (typically a bulkhead or overhead) to withstand fire, give protection from it, prevent fire spread to adjoining compartments, and retain structural integrity under fire. Structural integrity is the ability to continue to carry a structural load. Fire resistance does not address reaction to fire properties such as ignitability, surface flame spread, heat release rates, smoke density, fire gas toxicity, or other material fire performance limits.

3.2.2.1 *fire resistance rating*—a measure of the elapsed time during which a material, product, or assembly continues to exhibit fire resistance under specified exposure conditions.

3.2.2.2 *restricted application*—when a division will only protect against a fire threat with the insulation installed on the fire side only, the division is designated as fire resistant with restricted application.

3.2.2.3 *un-restricted application*—when a division is protected against a fire threat from both sides, the division is designated as fire resistant with unrestricted application.

3.2.3 *non-combustible insulation*—an insulation material when tested in accordance with the FTP Code, Annex 1, Part 1, and meet the acceptance criteria are non-combustible.

3.2.4 *standard steel or aluminum structural core*—a structural core used to construct the test specimen. It is constructed of either steel or aluminum with the dimensions and stiffeners shown in [Figs. 1-4](#).

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method evaluates the ability of a non-combustible passive fire protection system installed on structural divisions on commercial ships to function after shock loading.

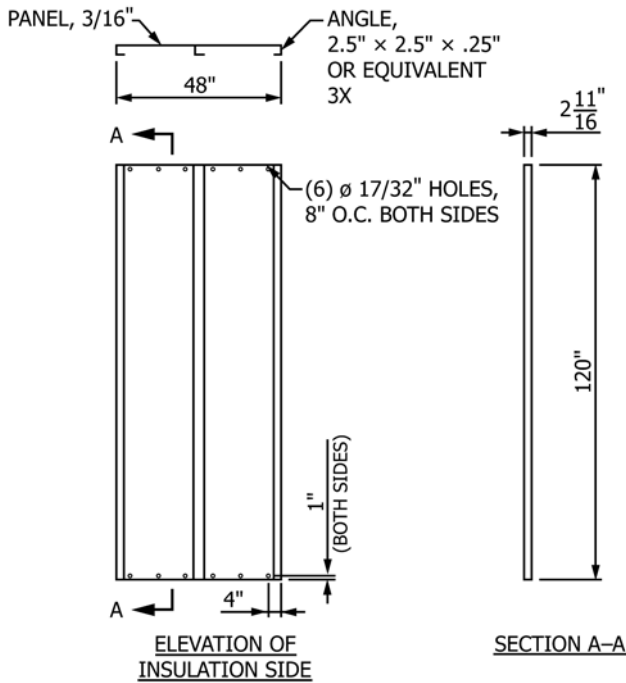


FIG. 1 Steel Test Specimen Construction Details for A-Class Bulkhead

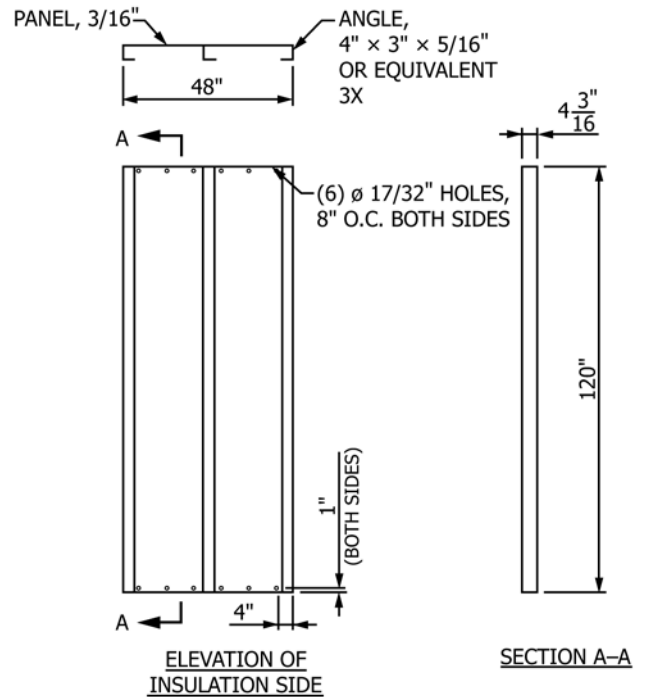


FIG. 3 Steel Test Specimen Construction Details for A-Class Deck

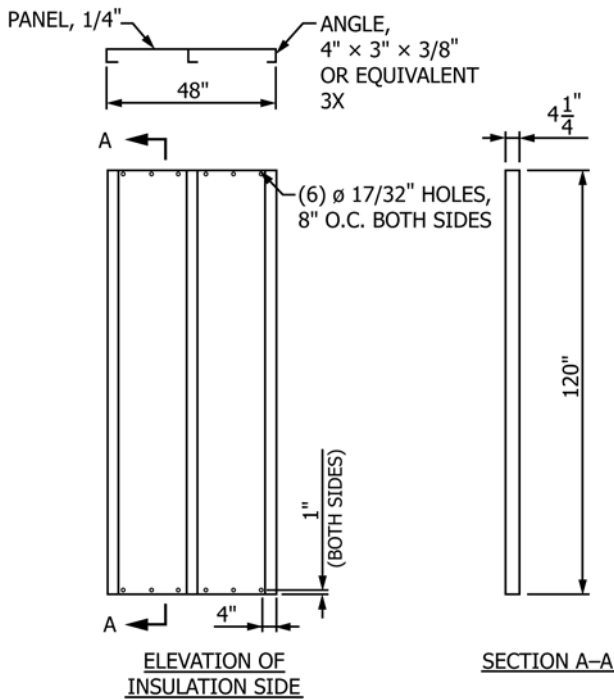


FIG. 2 Aluminum Test Specimen Construction Details for A-Class Bulkhead

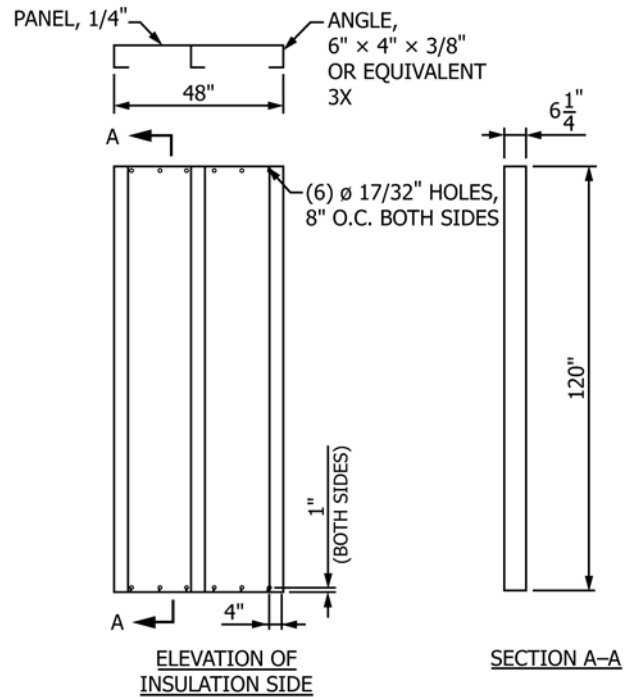


FIG. 4 Aluminum Test Specimen Construction Details for A-Class Deck

4.2 The shock loading is accomplished by conducting impact testing of a test specimen consisting of insulation on a standard steel or aluminum structural core installed on a medium weight shock test machine.

4.3 Following the shock testing the shocked test specimen and an unshocked test specimen are tested for fire resistance. Both shocked and unshocked test specimens are installed side-by-side in a fixture and fire tested at the same time.

4.4 The fire resistance for both specimens is measured and recorded.

4.5 Other passive fire protection systems using the same insulation materials and attachment methods and having lower fire resistance ratings will be accepted without additional shock testing.

**5. Shock Test Prior to Fire Resistance Test**

5.1 Fire resistant divisions, bulkheads and decks, with passive fire protection and associated attachments, shall be shock tested in accordance with MIL-S-901D, Section 3.1.2 (b) Medium Weight Shock Test. The test specimen construction, orientations, fixture and assembly details are provided as guidance in Figs. 1-8. Testing shall be performed using both deck and bulkhead orientations. Test shall be performed for the orientations being evaluated, that is bulkhead, or deck, or both.

5.2 The test specimens to be insulated are 1220 by 3050 mm [48 by 120 in.]. Two specimens shall be constructed for each configuration to be tested. Both specimens will be insulated with passive fire protection, only one will be shock tested.

5.2.1 The steel bulkhead test specimen is shown in Fig. 1.

5.2.1.1 The aluminum bulkhead test specimen is shown in Fig. 2.

5.2.2 The steel deck test specimen is shown in Fig. 3.

5.2.2.1 The aluminum deck test specimen is shown in Fig. 4.

5.2.3 The bulkhead or deck shall be insulated on the stiffened side with a passive fire protection system for the desired fire resistance rating. The most severe test for the bulkhead is A-60 unrestricted, and for the deck A-60.

5.2.4 The deck shall be insulated on the stiffened side with passive fire protection system of an expected A-60 rating.

5.2.5 The insulated test specimen shall be mounted into the test fixture as shown:

5.2.5.1 In Fig. 5, Typical Deck Mounting Detail.

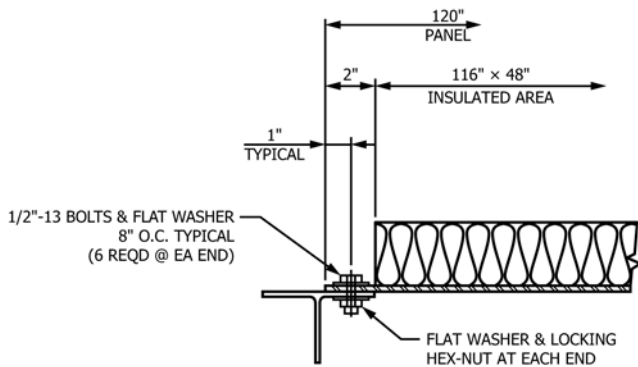
5.2.5.2 In Fig. 6, Cross Section of Bulkhead Mounting Detail.

5.2.6 Each test specimen shall be exposed to three hammer blows per each of the three orientations as shown:

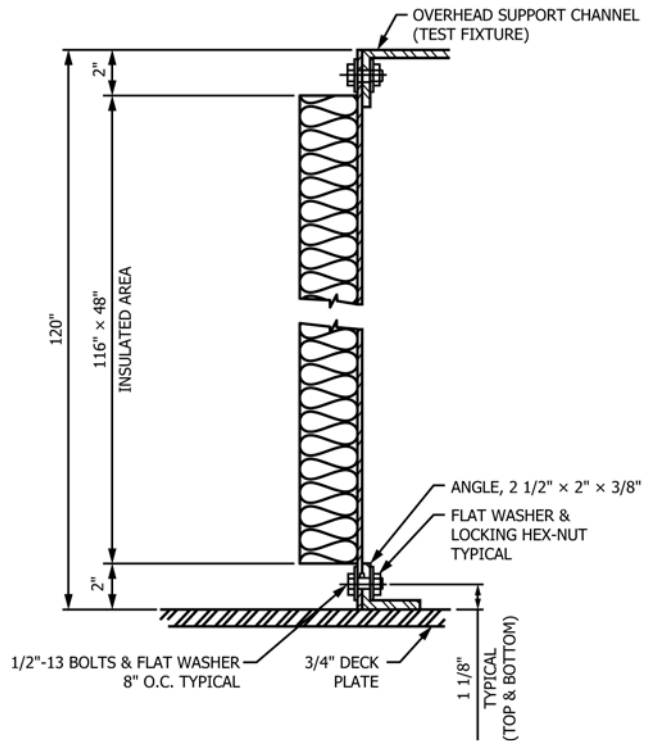
5.2.6.1 In Fig. 7, Bulkhead Orientations.

5.2.6.2 In Fig. 8, Deck Orientations.

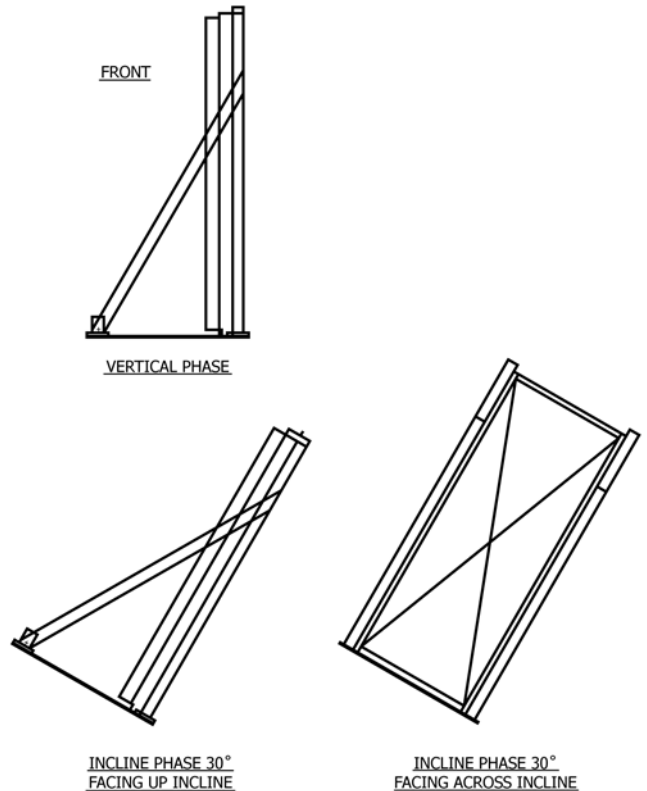
5.2.7 The shocked test specimen shall be evaluated to the criteria in Section 6. If it is deemed to meet the criteria, the



**FIG. 5 Typical Deck Mounting Detail**

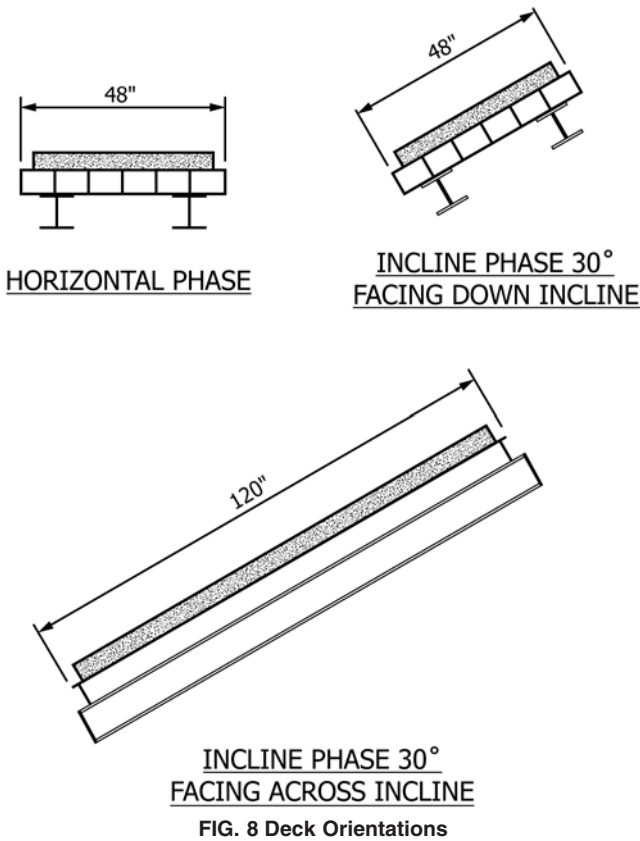


**FIG. 6 Cross Section Bulkhead Mounting Detail**



**FIG. 7 Bulkhead Orientations**

shocked and unshocked specimens shall be sent to the fire testing laboratory for the testing as stated in Section 7.



**6. Criteria to Evaluate Shock Test Specimens**

6.1 If pins or mechanical fasteners are used to install the insulation, the performance of insulation or other passive fire protection materials shall be based on visual observations. The following factors would degrade the performance of the insulation. If anyone of the following is evident, the test specimen is deemed to have failed the shock test.

6.1.1 More than 10 % of the pins or fasteners used to hold the insulation become loose from the test specimen. A loose pin or fastener is one which is no longer attached to the structural core.

6.1.2 Three or more adjacent pins become loose from the test specimen.

6.1.3 The insulation develops a noticeable crack or void which exposes the test specimen to direct heat transfer path from the fire exposure.

6.2 If adhesives are used to attach the insulation to the standard structural core, any of the following observations would deem the insulation system has failed the shock test.

6.2.1 The insulation cracks exposing the test specimen.

6.2.2 The insulation comes adrift forming a direct heat transfer path to the test specimen.

6.2.3 The insulation becomes loose and forms a noticeable void within the insulation itself or between the insulation and the test specimen.

**7. Post Shock Fire Resistance Test**

7.1 The test specimens having met the shock criteria in Section 6 shall be tested by a flag state approved fire testing laboratory.<sup>8</sup>

7.2 For bulkhead tests, the unshocked test specimen shall be fire tested, side-by-side in the same vertical furnace, with the shock tested specimen. For deck tests, an unshocked test specimen shall be fire tested, side-by-side in the same horizontal furnace, with a shock tested specimen. The fire test shall be conducted for one hour.

7.3 The furnace control shall be the same as stated in IMO Resolution A.754(18) paragraph 8.3 of reference 2.1.

7.4 The unexposed-face temperature thermocouples shall be designed and fixed to the unexposed face of the test specimens as stated in IMO Resolution A.754(18) paragraph 7.4 of reference 2.1.

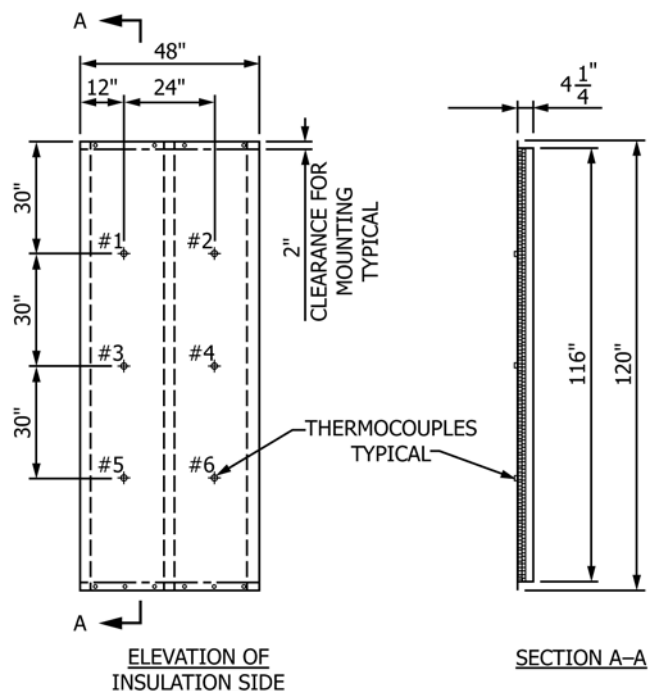
7.5 For testing of bulkhead and deck assemblies with insulation only on one side, six thermocouples shall be symmetrically located on the unexposed face to determine the average and maximum unexposed temperatures. The thermocouples shall be located on the centerline of the frame bays as shown in Fig. 9.

7.5.1 Additional thermocouples shall be added at the discretion of the laboratory engineer.

**8. Criteria to Evaluate the Fire Resistance of the Shock Tested Specimen**

8.1 The average temperature rise of the shocked specimen, as determined by the average temperature rise of all six

<sup>8</sup> See <http://cqmix.uscg.mil/eqlabs>



**FIG. 9 Thermocouple Locations on Unexposed Side of Shock Test Specimen for A-Class Bulkhead and Decks**



thermocouples, shall not be greater than 10 % of the average temperature rise of the unshocked specimen at the end of the fire resistance test.

8.2 The maximum temperature rise of any thermocouple on the shocked fire test specimen shall not exceed 180°C.

## 9. Test Report

9.1 A test report shall be written by the shock test laboratory for the shock test, irrespective of the outcome of the test.

9.1.1 The shock test report shall be written by the shock test laboratory personnel and shall include:

9.1.1.1 Description of the insulation to include weights of each piece of material installed on the test specimen.

9.1.1.2 Description and photographs of the attachment to include location of all attachments and method of installing components on the test specimen.

9.1.1.3 Data log describing the observations made after each of the hammer blows.

9.1.1.4 Video of each hammer blow and photographs of the test specimen after each hammer blow.

9.1.1.5 A statement on whether the passive fire protection system meets the criteria as stated in Section 6.

9.1.1.6 List of all witnesses present during the test.

9.2 Electronic copies of the test report shall be sent to the client and or their designee. A copy of the videos and photographs shall be sent to the client on a CD.

9.3 The fire test report shall be written by the fire test laboratory personnel. The fire test report shall be written irrespective of the outcome of the fire test.

9.3.1 The fire test report shall include all information relevant to the details of the test as specified in Reference 2.1.

## 10. Precision and Bias

10.1 Committee F25 is actively pursuing the development of data regarding the precision and bias of this test method. Data will be included in a future revision of these test methods.

## 11. Keywords

11.1 A-Class division; shock test; structural insulation; structural fire protection

## APPENDIX

### (Nonmandatory Information)

## X1. DISCUSSION OF RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED INSULATION ON A-CLASS STEEL AND ALUMINUM DIVISIONS

### X1.1 Introduction

X1.1.1 The International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures, FTP Code, became mandatory under the SOLAS Convention and entered in the force 1 July, 1998. Structural insulations are approved for steel and aluminum division in accordance with Part 3 Test for “A”, “B” and “F” class divisions, 2010 FTP Code, 2012 Edition. The 2012 Edition of the FTP Code entered into force on 1 July, 2012; all approvals for structural fire protection shall be tested and approved by the 2012 Edition of the FTP Code after 1 July, 2013.

X1.1.2 The purpose of this commentary is to explain restricted and unrestricted A-class structural insulation systems for steel and aluminum divisions. Steel division for A-0 class bulkheads and decks are exempt from testing when they are constructed in accordance with Annex 2, 3 “A”, “B”, and “F” class divisions, of 2012 FTP Code. All structural insulation for aluminum divisions must be tested.

### X1.2 Restricted Structural Insulation Systems

X1.2.1 A restricted structural insulation system will provide protection from a fire even when the insulation and the fire exposure are on the same side. A restricted bulkhead is insulated on the exposed stiffened side, see Fig. X1.1. A deck is insulated from below on the exposed stiffened side, see Fig.

X1.2. If the deck insulated system is successfully tested, that system is also acceptable for a restricted bulkhead.

### X1.3 Unrestricted Structural Insulation System for Bulkheads

X1.3.1 An unrestricted structural insulation system will provide protection from a fire event when the fire exposure is from either side of the bulkhead.

X1.3.2 Steel bulkhead divisions can have two configuration of unrestricted insulation. In one case the insulation is installed on the unexposed side of the bulkhead and the fire exposure is on the bare steel side. This type of system is tested with the stiffened side of the steel division as the unexposed side, (see Fig. X1.3).

X1.3.3 In the second unrestricted steel bulkhead configuration the same insulation is installed on each side of the bulkhead, (Fig. X1.4). All unrestricted aluminum bulkhead divisions shall be insulated on both sides. When fire testing the stiffened side of the division is the unexposed side.

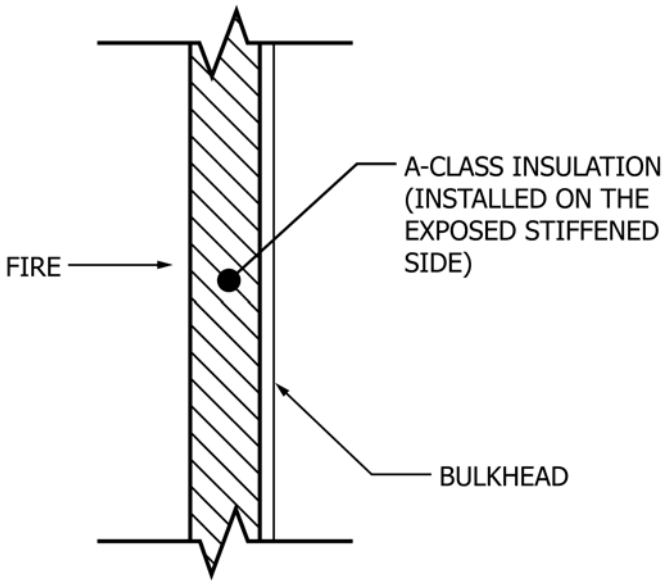


FIG. X1.1 A-Class Restricted Bulkhead, Steel or Aluminum

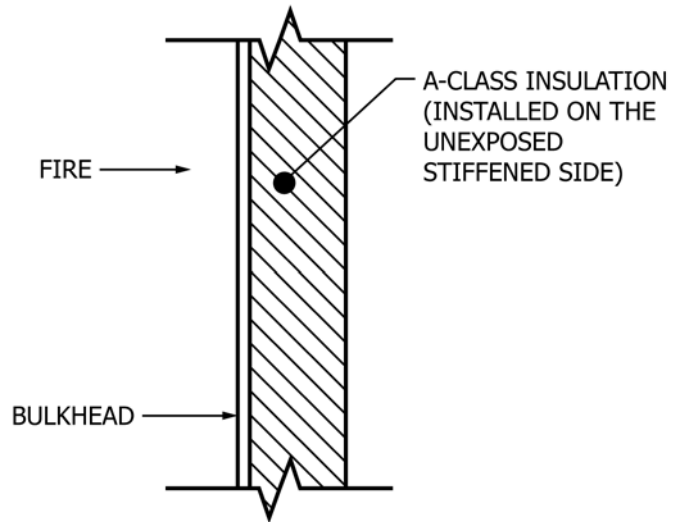


FIG. X1.3 A-Class Unrestricted Bulkhead, Steel Only

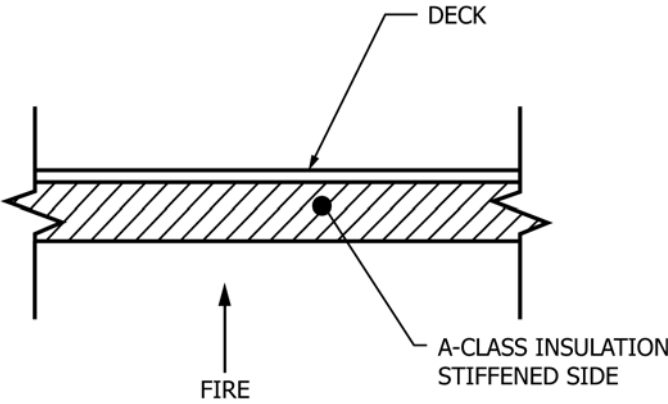


FIG. X1.2 A-Class, Steel or Aluminum

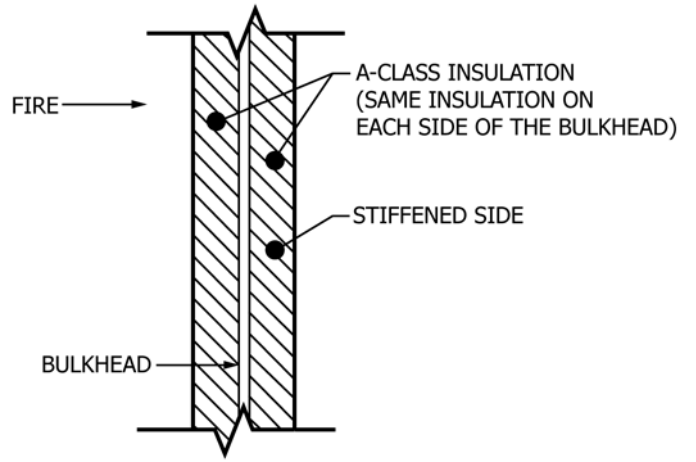


FIG. X1.4 A-Class Unrestricted Bulkhead, Steel or Aluminum

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