

PEARSON YACHTS

OWNER'S GUIDE AND PROTECTION PLAN

SECTION VIII-E: OPTIONAL DIESEL ENGINES

There are two grades of diesel engine fuels currently in use today. The first is Grade #1 and the second is Grade #2. The more common of these is the latter. The National Fire Prevention Association and the United States Military both agree that the flash point of Grade #1 diesel fuel is 100 degree Fahrenheit. The flash point of Grade #2 diesel fuel is 125 degrees Fahrenheit. We all know that gasoline installations in boats must be properly ventilated. This is in accordance with numerous regulations including those of the United States Coast Guard. Even the National Fire Prevention Association is concerned enough about the flammability of diesel fuel to require that it be treated with the same respect as gasoline.

Diesel engines used in the marine industry today operate with very high exhaust temperatures. The result is that any defect in the cooling water to the exhaust line can cause excessive buildup of heat, which in turn could create a fire. The volume of cooling water can easily be restricted by a blockage of the flow of water anywhere within the system, thereby creating a potential fire hazard.

After a diesel engine has been stopped it continues to emit a tremendous quantity of heat. This is rather normal considering the temperatures that the engines must operate at in order to combust the fuels. If this heat emission elevates the temperature in the engine compartment above the flash point of the diesel fuel, then there is an extreme potential fire hazard. (Certain makes of diesel engines operate at low temperatures, thereby greatly reducing the above described hazard.)

Because there are numerous switches and electrical connections adjacent to and in the engine compartments of most yachts, any spark and short-circuit from this wiring combined with the heat factor and the presence of diesel fumes may cause a potentially disastrous fire.

In summary, we highly urge that you exercise the same degree of caution with your diesel powered yacht as you would if it were gasoline powered.