Statutory Interpretation: A Code

Francis Alan Roscoe Bennion

For passenger vessels that shall comply with SOLAS II-2/21 and 22 regarding Safe Return to Port (SRtP), documentation shall be submitted according to Table 5. Additional manually operated call point at the internal exit to e.g. stairway is not required as long as the 20 m distance requirement is not exceeded. Requirements of the FSS Code Ch.9 Fixed fire detection and fire alarm systems. FSS Code Ch.9.2.1.1 When it is intended that a particular section or detector shall be temporarily switched off, this state shall be clearly indicated. Reactivation of the section or detector shall be performed automatically after a preset time.

The term statutory interpretation refers to the action of a court in trying to understand and explaining the meaning of a piece of legislation. Many cases go to appeal on a point of interpretation. Indeed, Lord Hailsham, a senior English judge, once said that ‘probably 9 out of 10 cases heard by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords turn upon or involve the meaning of words contained in statute or secondary legislation.’ Why is this the case? First, laws must be drafted in general terms and must deal with both present and future situations. Often, a law which was drafted with one particular...