

Rule XXIX.—*Guard Rails*

Efficient guard rails or bulwarks are to be fitted on all exposed portions of freeboard and superstructure decks.

Rule XXX.—*Freeing Ports*

Where bulwarks on the weather portions of freeboard or superstructure decks form "wells," ample provision is to be made for rapidly freeing the decks of water and for draining them. The minimum freeing port area on each side of the ship for each well on the freeboard deck and on the raised quarter-deck is to be that given by the following scale; the minimum area for each well on any other superstructure deck is to be one-half the area given by the scale. Where the length of the well exceeds $\cdot 7 L$, the scale may be modified.

SCALE of Freeing Port Area

Length of Bulwarks in "Well" in Feet	Freeing Port Area on each side in Square Feet.
15	8.0
20	8.5
25	9.0
30	9.5
35	10.0
40	10.5
45	11.0
50	11.5
55	12.0
60	12.5
65	13.0
Above 65	1 square foot for each additional 5 feet length of bulwark.

The lower edges of the freeing ports are to be as near the deck as practicable and preferably not higher than the upper edge of the gunwale bar. Two-thirds of the freeing port area required is to be provided in the midship half of the well. In ships with less than the standard sheer the freeing port area is to be suitably increased.

All such openings in the bulwarks are to be protected by rails or bars spaced about 9 inches apart. If shutters are fitted to freeing ports, ample clearance is to be provided to prevent jamming. Hinges are to have brass pins.

Rule XXXI.—*Protection of Crew*

Gangways, lifelines or other satisfactory means are to be provided for the protection of the crew in getting to and from their quarters. The strength of houses for the accommodation of crew on flush deck steamers is to be equivalent to that required for superstructure bulkheads.