

five axes, a good life-preserver made of suitable material, or a float well adapted to the purpose, for each and every passenger, which life-preservers and floats shall always be kept in convenient and accessible places in such steamboat, and in readiness for the use of the passengers.

32. Suitable and safe provisions shall be made throughout to guard against danger from fire; and no combustible material liable to take fire from heated iron, or any other heat generated on board of such vessels in and about the boilers, pipes or machinery, shall be placed at less than six inches distant from such heated metal or other substance likely to cause ignition; and further, when wood is so exposed to ignition, it shall, as an additional preventive, be shielded by some incombustible material, in such manner as to allow the air to circulate freely between such material and the wood: and metallic vessels or safes should be provided and kept in some convenient place to receive cotton, waste, hemp, and other inflammable substances, which may be in use on board; Provided, however, that when the structure of such vessels is such, or the arrangement of the boilers or machinery is such, that the requirements aforesaid cannot, without serious inconvenience or sacrifice, be complied with, Inspectors may allow deviations from the said requirements, if, in their judgment, it can be done with safety.

Combustible materials not to be within a certain distance of heated iron, &c.

Proviso: Inspectors may allow deviation in certain cases.

33. Every steamboat carrying passengers shall have at least three double-acting forcing pumps, with chamber at least four inches in diameter, two to be worked by hand and one by steam, if steam can be employed independent of and not worked by the main engine, otherwise all three by hand, one whereof shall be placed near the stern, one near the stem, and one amidships, each having a suitable well-fitted hose, of at least two-thirds the length of the vessel, kept at all times in perfect order and ready for immediate use; each of the said pumps shall also be supplied with water by a pipe connected therewith, and passing through the side of the vessel, so low as to be at all times in the water when the vessel is afloat: Provided, that in vessels not exceeding two hundred tons measurement, engine-room included, two of such pumps (one of which may be the steam-pump) may be dispensed with, and in vessels of over two hundred tons, but not exceeding five hundred tons measurement, engine-room included, one of such hand-pumps may be dispensed with, but in these cases the hose shall be of such length as to reach easily to every part of the vessel.

Every steam boat to have certain pumps for throwing water in case of fire.

Proviso.

34. Every steam vessel shall also be provided with a blow valve and pipe attached to the boiler to blow steam into the hold in case of fire.

And a contrivance for blowing steam into the hold.

35. Every steamboat carrying passengers on the main or lower deck, shall be provided with sufficient means convenient

Means of escape to the