



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MARINE INFORMATION NOTE

MIN 339 (M)

Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen : Issue of Amendment 08

Notice to all Ship Owners, Ship operators and Managers, Masters and Merchant Seafarers

This MIN expires 01 December 2009

PLEASE NOTE:-

Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel and you should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

Summary

This Marine Information Note provides updated guidance on the Merchant Shipping (Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen) Regulations 1998 (S.I 1998/1838), including the issue of Amendment 08

1. Introduction/ Background

1.1 A revised Code for Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen ("the Code") was published in July 1998 after consultation with industry.

1.2 The Code is arranged into four sections;

Section 1 deals with the regulatory background to the advice and general principles of health and safety;

Section 2 gives general advice to seafarers;

Section 3 covers specific work activities;

Section 4 deals with Safety for specialist ship operations.

1.3 Carriage of the Code is mandatory and governed by the Merchant Shipping (Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen) regulations 1998/1838 ("The Regulations").

2. Amendment 08 – Contents of pack

- 2.1 Amendments to the Code are usually published annually and Amendment 08 is published by the Stationery Office in November 2008. The changes introduced are summarised below.
- 2.2 The first change relates to the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Carcinogens and Mutagens Regulations 2007, which came into force on the 1 March 2008 which necessitates the inclusion of a new section in Chapter 27 - Hazardous Substances.
- 2.3 The second change relates to the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations 2007 and Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Control of Vibration at Work) Regulations 2007 which came into force on the 23 February 2008

3. Availability of the Code and Amendments

- 3.1 The Code is a loose-leaf publication, and companies may subscribe to a standing order system for the issue of amendments. The Stationery Office will provide details of this system when copies of the Code are purchased. The latest amendment to be issued is Amendment 8 ISBN No. 978-0-11-552824-5 at a cost of £15.00
- 3.2 Printed copies of the latest Consolidated Code (2007 Edition ISBN 978-0-11-5528231), Amendment 5 (ISBN 978-0-11-5526206), Amendment 6 (ISBN 978-0-11-5527210) and Amendment 07 (ISBN No. 978-0-115528248) are available from the Stationery office Publications Centre, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN. Tel (orders) 0870 600 5533; Email (orders) books.orders@tso.co.uk Copies may also be ordered through The Stationery Office's bookshops, its accredited agents (see yellow pages) or from any reputable book seller.
- 3.3 The "Official Electronic Version" of the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen (November 2008) ISBN 978-0-11-553042 5 includes all amendments to date, and is available from The Stationery Office, at a price of £40. A subscription service is then available, providing an updated copy (including each future amendment) at a price of £10 a year.
- 3.4 Provided that the requirements of the Regulations are met, including the requirement for copies of the Code to be easily accessible, MCA accepts that some copies may be electronic. In all cases at least one printed copy of the Code should be available.

More Information

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