



Circular N^o CH 43-5

To: All Shipowners of Swiss flagged Vessels, Masters, Shipboard Safety Committee, Recognised Organisations and approved Inspectors

Sub.: Hazardous Work and Consideration of Health and Safety Issues for Seafarers under the Age of 18

- Ref. a) Standard A1.1(4) and A4.3.2(b) of Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (hereafter "MLC")**
- b) Swiss Maritime Statute (Navigation Act, SMS), Art. 53 , Art. 72 / Ordinance implementing the Federal Law on Navigation under the Swiss Flag (Navigation Ordinance, SMO), Art. 28 and 29**
- c) Code of Safe Working Practice for Merchant Seafarers (UK MCA)**

PURPOSE:

The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 requires specific consideration in a ship's occupational safety and health policy program of the safety and health of seafarers under the age of 18. This Notice identifies and establishes restrictions on types of work considered hazardous because they present special risk of accident, may have a detrimental effect on a young seafarer's health or physical development, or require a special degree of maturity, experience or skill.

APPLICABILITY:

These specific considerations shall apply to all seafarers under the age of 18 employed by ship-owners and operators aboard Swiss Flag vessels.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. No shipowner/operator shall engage a seafarer under the age of 18 if employment or work considered hazardous by that shipowner/operator in accordance with this Notice and international standards.
2. A shipowner/operator shall address in their Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Programme (SOHSP) the safety and health of young seafarers and, specifically, restrictions on work considered hazardous for those under the age of 18.
Seafarers under the age of 18 shall not be permitted to engage in activities that are considered potentially hazardous.
3. Potentially hazardous activities, which are to be determined by the shipowner/operator in the development of their SOHSP, shall include but not be limited to:
 - .1 Entry into boilers, confined spaces, tanks and cofferdams;
 - .2 The lifting, moving or carrying of heavy loads or objects;
 - .3 Exposure to harmful noise and vibration levels;
 - .4 Operating hoisting and other power machinery and tools, or acting as signalers to operators of such equipment;
 - .5 Handling mooring or tow lines or anchoring equipment;

- .6 Rigging;
 - .7 Work aloft or on deck in heavy weather;
 - .8 Night watch duties;
 - .9 Servicing of electrical equipment;
 - .10 Exposure to potentially harmful materials, or harmful physical agents such as dangerous or toxic substances and ionizing radiations; when making a determination of which activities are hazardous, a shipowner/operator also should consider hazardous materials codes on a vessel-specific basis, as applicable;
 - .11 The cleaning of catering machinery; and
 - .12 The handling or taking charge of ship's boats.
4. Prior to employment, a seafarer under the age of 18 shall be:
 - .1 Assessed for competency to perform a task or job while being given an explanation and/or walk through of all procedures, including safe working practices, and required to take pre-job training, if competence cannot be demonstrated.
 - .2 Provided with age-appropriate information concerning the prevention of accidents and the protection of their health on board ships. Such information should include the detrimental effects of alcohol and drug abuse and the abuse of other potentially harmful substances, and the risks and concerns related to HIV/AIDS and other health-risk-related activities.
 5. Recommended measures for imparting safety and health information on young seafarers include adequate instruction in courses, the distribution of written materials and professional instruction and supervision.
 6. On ships with five or more seafarers, shipowners shall specify the authority of the seafarers appointed as safety representatives to participate in ship's safety committee meetings.

Swiss Maritime Navigation Office SMNO

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