

PROPOSED CHANGES TO SMALL FISHING VESSEL CODE RESULTING FROM ILO 188

Personal Flotation Devices

3.17 In accordance with MGN XXX (F), MCA considers that, unless measures are in place which eliminate the risk of fishermen falling overboard, all fishermen must be provided with, and must wear, PFDs or safety harnesses. The measures eliminating the risk of Man Overboard must be documented in a written risk assessment. See Guidance in Annex 2 for further information.

Extract from Annex 2

Lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

One lifejacket per person shall be carried, fitted with MED light, whistle and reflective tape.

A vessel is required to carry life-saving appliances (LSA) including lifejackets for all persons on-board through regulation forming part of the "Statutory LSA". These Statutory Lifejackets are of a type designed tested and maintained to a standard appropriate to the vessel type and area of operation. These lifejackets are to provide persons buoyancy in an abandon ship scenario.

Lifejackets shall be stowed either in a deckhouse or other dry and readily accessible position or best alternative position and have stowage positions clearly and permanently marked.

A statutory lifejacket can be very bulky in nature, cumbersome to move in when worn on deck, however once in the water, they provide a high level of buoyancy for the wearer awaiting rescue.

A PFD can be a lifejacket or a buoyancy aid or wearable buoyancy device that also provides persons buoyancy in the water. The intended use of a PFD is to be constantly worn when on deck in case of falling overboard, rather than intentionally entering the water or survival craft during an abandon ship scenario.

A PFD can be much smaller and more streamlined such as a waistcoat styled buoyancy aid enabling the user to continue to perform tasks whilst wearing it on deck, with the added level of safety that should they fall overboard, the PFD will offer them added buoyancy and increase the chances of survival until recovered.

In the event of an abandon ship scenario, individuals should, if time permits, remove their PFDs and don the statutory lifejacket provided on the vessel, which will offer them a higher level of buoyancy than their PFD and a greater chance of survival.

A lifeline and harness attaching the person to the vessel may be worn, instead of or in addition to the PFD. Lifejackets shall be of the solid-filled type, or if inflatable shall comply with EN ISO 12402, with gas inflation and at least 150 Newtons buoyancy.

Inflatable Lifejackets shall be serviced and maintained at the manufacturers recommended service intervals by a service station authorised or approved by the manufacturer of the product.

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Crew Accommodation Requirements for Vessels built after DD/MM/20XX], vessels joining the UK Register for the first time, or rejoining after a period of 6 months not being on the UK Register

- 3.42 On every occasion when a vessel is newly constructed, is joining the UK Register for the first time or after a period of six months or more have elapsed since the vessel left the Register or the crew accommodation of a vessel has been reconstructed, such vessel, if crew accommodation is to be fitted, shall comply with the requirements of paragraphs 3.43 to 3.81 to the satisfaction of the MCA.
- 3.43 There shall be adequate headroom in all accommodation spaces.
- 3.44 Where sleeping rooms are provided, there shall be no direct openings into sleeping rooms from fish rooms and machinery spaces, except for the purpose of emergency escape. Where reasonable and practicable, direct openings from galleys, storerooms, drying rooms or communal sanitary areas shall be avoided unless expressly provided otherwise.
- 3.45 Accommodation spaces shall be adequately insulated; the materials used to construct internal bulkheads, panelling and sheeting, and floors and joinings shall be suitable for the purpose and shall be conducive to ensuring a healthy environment. Sufficient drainage shall be provided in all accommodation spaces.
- 3.46 Emergency escapes from all crew accommodation spaces shall be provided as necessary.
- 3.47 Accommodation spaces, where they exist, shall be such as to minimize noise and vibration.
- 3.48 Accommodation spaces shall be ventilated and adequately heated, taking into account climatic conditions. The system of ventilation shall supply air in a satisfactory condition whenever crew are on board.
- 3.49 Ventilation arrangements or other measures shall be such as to protect nonsmokers from tobacco smoke.
- 3.50 All accommodation spaces shall be provided with adequate light. Wherever practicable, accommodation spaces shall be lit with natural light in addition to artificial light
- 3.51 Where sleeping spaces have natural light, a means of blocking the light shall be provided.
- 3.52 Adequate reading light shall be provided for every berth in addition to the normal lighting of the sleeping room.
- 3.53 Emergency lighting shall be provided in sleeping rooms.
- 3.54 Where a vessel is not fitted with emergency lighting in mess rooms, passageways, and any other spaces that are or may be used for emergency escape, permanent night lighting shall be provided in such spaces.

- 3.55 Where the design, dimensions or purpose of the vessel allow, the sleeping accommodation shall be located so as to minimize the effects of motion and acceleration but shall in no case be located forward of the collision bulkhead
- 3.56 The number of persons per sleeping room and the floor area per person, excluding space occupied by berths and lockers, shall be such as to provide adequate space and comfort for the fishers on board, taking into account the service of the vessel.
- 3.57 To the extent not expressly provided otherwise, the number of persons allowed to occupy each sleeping room shall not be more than six. A separate sleeping room or sleeping rooms shall be provided for officers, wherever practicable.
- 3.58 The maximum number of persons to be accommodated in any sleeping room shall be legibly and indelibly marked in a place in the room where it can be conveniently seen.
- 3.59 Individual berths of appropriate dimensions shall be provided. Mattresses shall be of a suitable material.
- 3.60 Sleeping rooms shall be so planned and equipped as to ensure reasonable comfort for the occupants and to facilitate tidiness. Equipment provided shall include berths, individual lockers sufficient for clothing and other personal effects, and a suitable writing surface.
- 3.61 Sleeping accommodation shall be situated or equipped, as practicable, so as to provide appropriate levels of privacy for men and for women.
- 3.62 Mess rooms shall be as close as possible to the galley, but in no case shall be located forward of the collision bulkhead.
- 3.63 Vessels shall be provided with mess-room accommodation suitable for their service. To the extent not expressly provided otherwise, mess-room accommodation shall be separate from sleeping quarters, where practicable.
- 3.64 The dimensions and equipment of each mess room shall be sufficient for the number of persons likely to use it at any one time.
- 3.65 Sanitary facilities, which include toilets, washbasins, and tubs or showers, shall be provided for all persons on board, as appropriate for the service of the vessel. These facilities shall meet at least minimum standards of health and hygiene and reasonable standards of quality
- 3.65 The sanitary accommodation shall be such as to eliminate contamination of other spaces as far as practicable. The sanitary facilities shall allow for reasonable privacy
- 3.66 Where sanitation, galleys or mess rooms are provided, cold fresh water and hot fresh water shall be available to all fishermen and other persons on board, in sufficient quantities to allow for proper hygiene. The competent authority may establish, after consultation, the minimum amount of water to be provided

- 3.67 Where sanitary facilities are provided, they shall be fitted with ventilation to the open air, independent of any other part of the accommodation.
- 3.68 All surfaces in sanitary accommodation shall be such as to facilitate easy and effective cleaning. Floors shall have a non-slip deck covering.
- 3.69 Amenities for washing and drying clothes shall be provided as necessary, taking into account the service of the vessel,
- 3.70 Whenever possible, a cabin shall be made available for a fisher who suffers illness or injury.
- 3.71 Whenever possible, a place for hanging foul-weather gear and other personal protective equipment shall be provided outside of, but convenient to, sleeping rooms.
- 3.72 Appropriate eating utensils, and bedding and other linen shall be provided to all fishers on board. However, the cost of the linen can be recovered as an operational cost if the collective agreement or the fisher's work agreement so provides.
- 3.73 All fishers on board shall be given reasonable access to communication facilities, to the extent practicable, at a reasonable cost and not exceeding the full cost to the fishing vessel owner.
- 3.74 Cooking equipment shall be provided on board. To the extent not expressly provided otherwise, this equipment shall be fitted, where practicable, in a separate galley.
- 3.75 The galley, or cooking area where a separate galley is not provided, shall be of adequate size for the purpose, well lit and ventilated, and properly equipped and maintained.
- 3.76 The containers of butane or propane gas used for cooking purposes in a galley shall be kept on the open deck and in a shelter which is designed to protect them from external heat sources and external impact.
- 3.77 A suitable place for provisions of adequate capacity shall be provided which can be kept dry, cool and well ventilated in order to avoid deterioration of the stores and, to the extent not expressly provided otherwise, refrigerators or other low-temperature storage shall be used, where possible.
- 3.78 Food and potable water shall be sufficient, having regard to the number of fishers, and the duration and nature of the voyage. In addition, they shall be suitable in respect of nutritional value, quality, quantity and variety, having regard as well to the fishers' religious requirements and cultural practices in relation to food.
- 3.79 Accommodation shall be maintained in a clean and habitable condition and shall be kept free of goods and stores which are not the personal property of the occupants or for their safety or rescue.
- 3.80 Galley and food storage facilities shall be maintained in a hygienic condition.

- 3.81 Waste shall be kept in closed, well-sealed containers and removed from food handling areas whenever necessary.

Recommended Sanitary facilities, including toilets and washing facilities, and supply of sufficient hot and cold water for vessels built before DD/MM/20XX, registered as a UK Fishing Vessel and which does not leave the Register for a period of 6 months or more

- 3.82 On any vessel where fishermen are continuously on board for more than a few hours, at least one toilet should always be provided. Toilets should be separate from, but located near to, crew sleeping accommodation (where provided) and located in a position which provides privacy to those using them. They should be segregated from the galley, mess and food storage areas, and should have adequate ventilation to the open air.
- 3.83 Separate hand washing facilities should be provided, apart from the galley sink. Soap and a hygienic means of drying hands should be provided. It is easier to ensure that hand drying facilities remain hygienic if disposable paper towels are used, rather than a fabric towel which must be regularly washed. Used paper towels are garbage, and must be landed ashore at proper disposal facilities.
- 3.84 Washing facilities, including a shower or tub, should be available on vessels where fishermen are on board for more than 24 hours. Adequate hot and cold water should be available.
- 3.85 All surfaces should be such as to facilitate easy and effective cleaning. Floors should have a non-slip deck covering.
- 3.86 As a guideline, it is expected that at least one toilet, washbasin and shower should be provided for every six fishermen on board.

Risk Assessments

- 4.0 The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997 or any superseding document require suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of workers arising in the normal course of their activities or duties. Guidance on these regulations and on the principals of risk assessment is contained in a Marine Guidance Note (currently MGN 20 (M&F)) or any superseding document.
- 4.3 A risk assessment is intended to be a careful examination of the vessels procedures or operations which could cause harm, so that decisions can be made as to whether adequate control measures are in place to reduce those risks to an acceptable level or whether more should be done.
- 4.4 The assessment should first identify the hazards that are present and then establish whether a hazard is significant and whether it is already covered by satisfactory precautions to control the risk, including consideration of the likelihood of the failure of those precautions that are already in place.
- 4.5 The health and safety risk assessment must also be reviewed regularly, (at least annually) to ensure that it remains appropriate to the vessel's fishing method and operation. If there has been a change of fishing method or of operational practice, the assessment must also be reviewed accordingly.
- 4.6 Risk assessments of the vessel are particular to each vessel. When a vessel is sold, the new owner must complete, or arrange the completion of, a new risk assessment and self-certification.
- 4.7 All members of the crew shall be informed of all measures to be taken regarding health and safety on board the vessel. Such information must be easily understood and promulgated for all to see by the persons concerned. All members of the crew must sign aforementioned Risk Assessment to agree it has been understood.
- 4.8 Where risks to the health and safety of the crew cannot be prevented or sufficiently controlled by collective or technical means of protection, they must be provided with personal protective equipment.
- 4.9 Personal protective equipment in the form of clothing or over clothing shall be in bright colours, contrasting with the marine environment and clearly visible. Reference must be made to The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulations 1999, No 2205, MSN 1870 and MGN 311, or any superseding documents.