



Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers: Amendment 2017

Notice to all Shipowners, ship operators, and managers, masters and seafarers

*This notice replaces Marine Information Note MIN 532 (M)
This MIN expires 12 December 2018*

Summary

This Marine Information Note provides information about the 2017 amendments to the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers (“the Code”). The Code provides best practice guidance for health and safety on board ship. It deals with the regulatory framework for health and safety on board ship, gives guidance on safety management and identifies statutory duties underlying the advice in the Code, and provides practical advice for working safely on board.

Main Points

Changes from the previous Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers (Amendment 1, 2016 Edition) include:

1. New guidance on sunglasses for seafarers.
2. New guidance on the Risk from Sharps.
3. Other changes are listed in Section 2.5.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An amendment to the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers (“the Code”) was issued on 11 December 2017 after consultation with industry.
- 1.2 The Code is an authoritative manual on best practice in health and safety on board ships and is endorsed by the National Maritime Occupational Health and Safety Committee (NMOHSC). It deals with the regulatory framework for health and safety on board ship, safety management and statutory duties underlying the advice and gives practical advice on working safely.

2. Amendments

- 2.1 **Sunglasses:** A new sub-section to Chapter 3 provides guidance on the purchase and wearing of sunglasses for seafarers working in certain conditions.



2.2 **Risks from sharps:** A new sub-section to Chapter 3 provides information on the precautions to be taken when dealing with sharps which that been discarded.

2.3 **Solid Carbon Dioxide:** This guidance was previously published in MSN 1254 and now is included in the Code. MSN 1254 will now be withdrawn.

2.4 **Safe access to small craft:** New guidance has been published by Port Skills and Safety as SIP 14, some of which has now been included in the Code.

2.5 The table below summarises all the significant changes in these amendments to this edition of the Code.

Chapter Number and title	Paragraph number or title	Reason for change
Chapter 3, Living on Board	3.13 Sunglasses	<i>New guidance</i> as detailed in 2.1 above
Chapter 3, Living on Board	3.14 Risks from Sharps	<i>New guidance</i> as detailed in 2.2 above
Chapter 4, Emergency Drills and Procedures	4.4.10	MGN 560 (M) Lifeboats, Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances, Winches and On-load Release Gear – Operational and Test Procedures and it replaces MSN 1803 (M)
Chapter 5, Fire Precautions	5.5.4	Inserted to take into account guidance published in IMO, MSC.1/1321
Chapter 11, Safe Movement on Board Ship	11.4.7	Amending the text
Chapter 19, Lifting Plant and Operations	19.3	Clarifying the advice given on the Register of Lifting Appliances
Chapter 19, Lifting Plant and Operations	19.11.7	Clarifying the advice that persons should not stand in the vicinity of cargo being lifted.
Chapter 20, Work on Machinery and Power Systems	20.3.13	Updating the guidance to reflect the information published in MSC 1/Circ 1321 and MSC/Circ 834.
Chapter 21, Hazardous Substances and Mixtures	21.9	<i>New guidance</i> as detailed in 2.3 above
Chapter 24, Hot Work	24.2.3	<i>Insert:</i> Angle grinding
Chapter 28, Dry Cargo	28.4	<i>Insert:</i> MGN 157 including MSC/Circ 886 and MSC/Circ 888.

2.6 This amendment to the Code also correct other typographical and formatting identified since the last update.

3. Availability of the Code

3.1 Printed copies of the latest edition can be purchased by contacting The Stationery Office, (TSO), Customer Services, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN; or by telephoning 0333 22 5070; or by emailing customer.services@tso.co.uk. Alternatively, the latest edition can be ordered online at www.tsoshop.co.uk where a list of all TSO Agents can be found. Copies of the Code can also be purchased from any reputable book seller.

3.2 Companies may subscribe to a standing order for the issue of amendments. TSO will provide details of the system when copies of the Code are purchased.



More Information

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