



Seafarer Fatigue - Publication Of Results Of Two Research Projects Investigating Aspects Of Seafarer Fatigue

Notice to all Shipowners, Operators, Managers, Masters, Officers, Crew, Manning Agents, Training Establishments and associated shore based organisations

*This notice should be read with MGN 505 (M)
This MIN expires 31 May 2018*

Summary

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has commissioned two research projects to investigate aspects of fatigue:

- a) On-board and predictive modelling study into the 8 hours on/8 hours off watchkeeping pattern, and
- b) Predictive modelling study into a range of 2-watch and 3-watch watchkeeping patterns.

This Note announces publication of the results of the projects and provides details about obtaining copies of the project reports.

1. Background to the research

- 1.1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency considers seafarer fatigue to be a potentially serious issue which is detrimental to safety at sea and the health of seafarers. A particular concern is the need to improve our knowledge of fatigue science and how this can be applied to the management and mitigation of fatigue.
- 1.2 As part of the programme to improve scientific knowledge the MCA commissioned the following two research projects to investigate specific aspects of fatigue as it applies to watchkeepers.

2. On-board and predictive modelling study into the 8 hours on/8 hours off watchkeeping pattern

- 2.1 This study was conducted on vessels operating in UK waters outside the scope of STCW and EU Directives and were therefore able to operate the 8-on/8-off watchkeeping system



with an authorised exception and with the full agreement of the crew and social partners. The study comprised a mix of on-board research and data collection together with theoretical modelling of working patterns using a validated prediction model. This study was conducted in a specific operation and the results should not be taken as being relevant in other operations. A copy of the research project report can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fatigue-research-project-8hrs-on-8hrs-off-seafarers-watch-keeping-system>

3. Predictive modelling study into a range of 2-watch and 3-watch watchkeeping patterns

3.1 This study used a validated model to predict levels of sleepiness in a range of 2-watch and 3-watch watchkeeping patterns and investigated a number of variations that could be applied to commonly used watchkeeping patterns. It further undertook some analysis of workloads using actual timesheets from harbour tugs in two locations. This was a pilot study using limited data and although it provides useful indications of the value of further work in this area the results should not be taken as definitive. We would not recommend taking action to amend watchkeeping patterns based solely on the findings of this study. A copy of the research project report can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fatigue-research-project-workload-modelling>

More Information

Seafarer Safety and Health Branch
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/17
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 203 8172501
e-mail: human.element@mcga.gov.uk

Website Address: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency

General Inquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk

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