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## **Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers: Amendment 2018**

**Notice to all shipowners, ship operators and managers, masters and seafarers**

*This notice replaces Marine Information Note MIN 561 (M).  
This MIN expires 30th November 2019*

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### **Summary**

This Marine Information Note provides information about the 2018 amendments to the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers (“the Code”).

The Code deals with the regulatory framework and provides best practices guidance for health and safety on board ship. It also gives guidance on safety management and identifies statutory duties underlying the advice and includes practical information for safe working on board.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 An amendment to the Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers (“the Code” was issued on 22nd November 2018 after consultation with industry.
- 1.2 The Code is an authoritative best practice manual on 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 information on safe working.

### **2. Amendments**

- 2.1 The following table summarises the changes that have occurred in the 2018 Edition of the Code.



Chapter number and title	Old paragraph number or title	New paragraph number and reason for change
Chapter 17 Work at Height	17.4.11 Cradles and stages	MGN 578 replaced MGN 422
Chapter 18 Provision Care and Use of Work Equipment	The content and layout of this chapter has been revised and some sections have been rearranged as detailed below.	
	18.1 Suitability of work equipment	This paragraph has been retitled <i>General</i>
	18.1.2 Suitability of work equipment	Deleted (no substantive guidance)
	18.1.5 and 18.1.6 to 18.1.8 Suitability of work equipment	These paragraphs (standards) have been moved to NEW Annex 18.3 at the end of the chapter, for consistency with other chapters in the Code.
	18.2 Maintenance	Relocated to 18.7
	18.2.4 Maintenance	Inserted into Section 18.4
	18.3 Inspection	Relocated to 18.8 This section now forms two parts: (i) How to inspect (ii) When to inspect
	18.4 Specific Risks	Title changed to <i>Risk Assessment and Specific Risks</i>
	18.5 Information and Instructions	Relocated to Section 18.9
	18.6 Training	Relocated to Section 18.10
	18.7 Duty of Seafarers and workers	Relocated to Section 18.2
	18.8 Dangerous parts of work equipment	Relocated to Section 18.6
	18.9 Electrical Equipment	Relocated to Section 18.11
	18.10 High or very low temperatures	Relocated to Section 18.12
	18.11 Controls for starting or making a significant change in operating controls	This section has been moved to NEW Annex 3 at the end of this chapter for consistency with other chapters in the Code
	18.12 Stop Controls	This section has been moved to NEW Annex 3 at the end of this chapter for consistency with other chapters in the Code.
	18.14 Controls	Relocated to Section 18.13
18.15 Control Systems	This section has been moved to NEW Annex 3 at the end of this chapter for consistency with other chapters in the Code.	
18.16 Isolation from sources of energy	This section has been moved to NEW Annex 3 at the end of this chapter for consistency	



		with other chapters in the Code.
	18.17 Stability of work equipment	This section has been moved to NEW Annex 3 at the end of this chapter for consistency with other chapters in the Code.
	18.18 Lighting	Relocated to Section 18.14
	18.19 Markings	Relocated to Section 18.15
	18.20 Warnings	Relocated to Section 18.16
	18.21 Hand Tools	Relocated to Section 18.3
	18.22 Portable power-operated tools and equipment	Relocated to Section 18.17
	18.23 Workshop and bench machines (fixed installations)	Relocated to Section 18.18
	18.24 Abrasive Wheels	Relocated to Section 18.19
	18.25 Hydraulic/pneumatic/high-pressure jetting equipment	Relocated to Section 18.20
	18.26 Hydraulic jacks	Relocated to Section 18.21
	18.27 Carrying of seafarers on mobile work equipment	Relocated to Section 18.23
	18.28 Overturning of fork-lift trucks	Relocated to Section 18.24
	18.29 Use of mobile work equipment	Relocated to Section 18.22
	18.30 Self-propelled equipment	Relocated to Section 18.25
	18.31 Remote controlled self-propelled equipment	Relocated to Section 18.26
	18.32 Drive units and power take-off shafts	Relocated to Section 18.27
	18.33 Ropes and wires	Relocated to Section 18.28
	18.34 Characteristics of man-made fibre ropes	Relocated to Section 18.29
	18.35 Laundry Equipment	Relocated to Section 18.30
	NEW Annex 18.3	Health and safety standards for work equipment
Chapter 19 Lifting Plant and Operations	Edited to ensure consistent use of term “lifting equipment” in line with Regulations.	
	19.1.1 Introduction	These paragraphs have been moved to a NEW Annex 4 on Standards at the end of the chapter for consistency with other chapters in the Code.
	19.2.1 General Requirements	
	19.2.3 General Requirements	
	19.2.9 Accessories for lifting	
	19.3 Register of lifting appliances	Relocated to 19.7
	19.4 Regular Maintenance	Relocated to 19.3
	19.5 Thorough examination and inspection	Relocated to 19.4
	19.6 Certificates	No change
	19.7 Reports, records and marking of lifting equipment	Removed
	19.8 Controls	Relocated to 19.2.9 – 19.2.11



	19.9 Safety Measures	Now 19.11. Renamed “operational safety measures” and includes new paragraphs: 19.11.10 and 19.11.11
	19.10 Positioning and installation	Relocated to 19.8
	19.11 Lifting Operations	Relocated to 19.9
	19.12 Safe Working Load	Relocated to 19.10
	19.13 Use of winches and cranes	Relocated to 19.12
	19.14 Use of derricks	Relocated to 19.13
	19.15 Use of derricks in union purchase	Relocated to 19.14
	19.16 Use of stoppers	Relocated to 19.15
	19.17 Overhaul of cargo gear	Relocated to 19.16
	19.18.1 Trucks and other vehicles/appliances	This paragraph has been moved to a NEW Annex 4 on Standards at the end of the chapter for consistency with other chapters in the Code.
	19.18.2-7 Trucks and other vehicles/appliances	Relocated to 19.17
	19.21 Maintenance and testing of lifts	Now 19.19 Text has been updated for consistency with Merchant Shipping Regulations and HSE Guidance and to reflect current best practice
	NEW: Annex 19.4	Standards

2.2 Some pages in other chapters are reprinted with amendments consequential on those above. There is no change of substance in those pages. This amendment to the Code also corrects other typographical and formatting errors 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](mailto:customer.services@tso.co.uk). Alternatively, the latest edition can be ordered online at [www.tsoshop.co.uk](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk). Copies of the Code can also be purchased from any reputable book seller or from TSO Agents and distributors in the UK and internationally.

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.

### 4. Corrigendum – Chapter 3

4.1 Since these amendments went to print, a typo has been noted in Chapter 3 paragraph 3.13.4 of the Code. This paragraph warns against the use of photochromic lenses during the hours of darkness, and references MGN 397(M) for further information. The reference to MGN 397(M) is incorrect and should be to MGN 357(M). This will be corrected in the 2019 amendments.



## More Information

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