



Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers: Amendment 6 2021

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship operators, Managers, Masters and Seafarers

*This notice replaces MIN 649 (M).
This MIN expires 30th November 2022*

Summary

This notice provides details of the 2021 amendments to the code of safe working practices for merchant seafarers (“the Code”, also “COSWP”).

The code covers the regulatory framework and provides best practice 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 24th November 2021 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 2021 6th Edition of the Code, following stakeholder engagement and review by the COSWP Working Group, which consists of representatives of the shipping industry, seafarers and seafarers’ unions in collaboration with MCA policy leads.
- 2.2 In addition, in various chapters references have been updated and typographical corrections made (not detailed below).



Chapter	Title / Paragraph Number (old reference if altered)	Reason for 2021 Amendment	2021 Amendment Title / Paragraph Number
Chapter 3 – Living On Board	3.6 Avoiding the effects of fatigue	Following the outcome recommendation of MAIB report Seatruck Progress MGN 638 Human Element Guidance – Distraction: Mobile Phones and Personal Devices was developed. This amendment adds some from MGN 638.	3.6.3 Preventing fatigue inclusion of reference to using electronic devices New Section 3.15 Mobile Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices
Chapter 4 – Emergency Drills and Procedures	4.1.7 4.2.8 4.2.9 4.4 Abandon Ship Drills 4.9 Action in the event of a dangerous space emergency	MSN 1722 (M+F) Guidelines for Crews for the Purpose of Launching Lifeboats and Rescue Boats from Ships making Headway through the Water. - Incorporation of relevant content Stakeholder comment on consultation	4.1.7 Added wording. 4.2.8 Amended wording. 4.2.9 Added new final sentence. 4.4.10, 4.4.11, 4.4.12 & 4.4.13 Insertion of new sections. New annex 4.2 Precautions to be taken when carrying out launching drills 4.9.2 Added wording.
Chapter 11 – Safe Movement on Board Ship	11.6 Guarding of Openings 11.10 Entry into dangerous (enclosed spaces) 11.12 Adverse weather	MCA adoption of YDSA equivalence proposal for small commercial vessels : 1m guardrail height Stakeholder comment on consultation Stakeholder comment on consultation	11.6.4 Insertion of new paragraph. 11.10.2 reference to Chapter 15.1.5 & 15.1.6 added – identifying dangerous spaces 11.12.3 Added new final sentence.
Chapter 12 – Noise, Vibration and Other Physical Agents	12.9 Noise arising from music and entertainment	Amended to reflect Health and Safety Executive (HSE) current policy and resources.	12.9.1 Amended wording.
Chapter 14 – Permit to Work Systems	Annex 14.1.1 Permits to work entry into dangerous (enclosed) spaces	Stakeholder comment on consultation, amendments increase clarity on procedures.	Annex 14.1.1 Annex review and updated.



Chapter 15 – Entering Dangerous (Enclosed) Spaces	15.8 Safety precautions before entry 15.11 Additional requirements for entry into a space where the atmosphere is suspect or known to be unsafe 15.13 Breathing apparatus and resuscitation equipment	Stakeholder comment on consultation, amendments ensure increased clarity on entry procedures.	15.8.10 Added new section. 15.11.1 Removed wording. 15.13.1 Added new section.
Chapter 17 – Work At Height	17.1 Introduction 17.2 General Annex 17.1 Emergency planning for work at height	Amendment alignment with HSE guidance and as outlined within MGN 410 Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Work at Height) Regulations 2010	17.1.1 Added wording. 17.2.1 Wording removed. 17.2.2 Added wording and new final sentence. 17.2.6 Added new final sentence. Annex 17.1 Amended wording to point 5.
Chapter 18 – Provision, Care and Use of Work Equipment	18.28 Ropes and wires 18.29	IMO Circ 1620 Guidelines for inspection and maintenance of mooring equipment including lines	18.28 Section review with new wording and updated guidance.
Chapter 19 – Lifting Equipment and Operations	19.4 Thorough examination and inspection	Clarification of the examination period for lifting equipment. Reference to HSE’s “Thorough Examination of Lifting Equipment (INDG422)”.	19.4.2 Added wording and review of bullet points. New Table 2 – Inservice examination periods
Chapter 20 – Work on Machinery and Power Systems	20.7 Auxiliary machinery and equipment 20.17 Storage batteries: general 20.23 Valves and semi-conductor devices 20.23.3	MSN 852 Using diesel engine-starting aids with flammable mixtures – outdated notice for withdrawal but with more current information on battery safety added. Review of COSWP section to incorporate current guidance. Stakeholder comment on consultation MSN 646 Toxic Substances in Electronic Devices – outdated notice for withdrawal. Review of COSWP section to incorporate updated guidance.	20.7.7 New section. 20.17.5 & 20.17.6 Added new sections. 20.23.3 Section reviewed and split with 20.23.4 Remaining section number sequence altered



<p>Chapter 26 – Anchoring, Mooring and Towing Operations</p>	<p>26.1 Introduction</p> <p>26.2 Anchoring and weighing anchor</p> <p>26.3 Making fast and casting off</p> <p>26.6 Safe Mooring of domestic passenger craft and ships’ launches at quays</p>	<p>Review of COSWP Chapter and sections to incorporate current guidance.</p> <p>Advice concerning keeping clear of any area that could be reached by mooring equipment or ropes.</p> <p>Stakeholder comment on consultation</p> <p>MGN 648 COSWP Self Mooring Operations. Notice to be incorporated into the next COSWP amendment then withdrawn.</p>	<p>26.1.3 Added wording.</p> <p>26.2.1 Added references to current industry guidance and best practice.</p> <p>26.2.6 Added wording.</p> <p>26.3.7 Added wording.</p> <p>26.6.4 Added wording</p> <p>26.6.7 & 26.6.8 Added new sections</p> <p><u>New Section</u> 26.7 Self Mooring Operations</p> <p>Annex 26.3 – Added new annex: Examples of mooring arrangements</p>
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More Information

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