



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 7-049-1

Rev. Jun/2024

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety, including Hazardous Work Issues for Seafarers Under 18 Years Old

- References:**
- (a) **Maritime Labour Convention, 2006**, ([MLC, 2006](#)), as amended by the [2022 Amendments](#)
 - (b) **IMO Circular MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.3**, *Guidelines on the basic elements of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme*, issued 5 June 2006
 - (c) **RMI [Maritime Regulations](#)** (MI-108)
 - (d) **RMI Marine Notice [2-011-13](#)**, *International Safety Management Code*

PURPOSE

This Marine Notice (MN) contains the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator's (the "Administrator") requirements for shipboard occupational health and safety programs (SOHSP). It also establishes restrictions on work that is considered hazardous to seafarers under 18 years old in accordance with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

This MN supersedes Rev. Oct/2018. Section 1.0 has been amended to integrate the [2022 Amendments to the MLC, 2006](#) requiring appropriately-size personal protective equipment.

APPLICABILITY

This MN applies to the owners and operators of RMI-flagged vessels to which the International Safety Management (ISM) Code or [MLC, 2006](#) applies.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Programs

- 1.1 Shipowners must ensure that seafarers are provided with occupational health protection and live, work, and train on board vessels in a safe and hygienic environment as required by RMI [Maritime Regulations](#) §7.43.

- 1.2 Beginning 23 December 2024, seafarers must be provided with “all necessary appropriately-sized personal protective equipment” in accordance with [MLC, 2006](#) Standard A4.3 paragraph 1(b).
- 1.3 As part of the ISM safety management system (SMS)¹ when implementing, improving, or auditing the effectiveness of a SOHSP shipowners or operators must consider:
 - .1 IMO Circular [MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.3](#), *Guidelines on the basic elements of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme*; and
 - .2 the latest version of the [Guidance on Eliminating Shipboard Harassment and Bullying](#), jointly published by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF).

2.0 Seafarers Under 18 Years Old

- 2.1 The SOHSP must address the safety and health of young seafarers and restrict hazardous work for those under 18 years old.
- 2.2 It is prohibited to engage a seafarer under 18 years old in employment or work that is considered hazardous.
- 2.3 Hazardous activities must be determined by the shipowner or ship operator in the development of the SOHSP. Potentially hazardous activities include, but are not limited to:
 - .1 The lifting, moving, or carrying of heavy loads or objects;
 - .2 Entry into boilers, tanks, and cofferdams;
 - .3 Exposure to hot work;
 - .4 Exposure to harmful noise and vibration levels;
 - .5 Operating hoisting (lifting gear) and other power machinery and tools, or acting as signalers to equipment operators;
 - .6 Handling mooring or tow lines or anchoring equipment;
 - .7 Rigging;
 - .8 Working aloft or on deck in heavy weather;
 - .9 Nightwatch duties;
 - .10 Servicing of electrical equipment;

1. See MN [2-011-13](#).

- .11 Exposure to potentially harmful materials or physical agents, such as dangerous or toxic substances, and ionizing radiations;
 - .12 Considering the hazardous materials codes on a vessel-specific basis;
 - .13 Cleaning catering machinery; and
 - .14 Handling ship's boats or commanding them.
- 2.4 Before employment, a seafarer under 18 years old must be assessed for their competency to perform tasks or jobs. They must also receive an explanation for all procedures and safe working practices in a "walk-through". Pre-job training must be given if they do not have or cannot demonstrate the required competencies.
- 2.5 Young seafarers must also be given age-appropriate information about accident prevention and health protection on board ships. Such information includes the harmful effects of alcohol, drugs, potentially harmful substance abuse, HIV-AIDS protection and prevention, and other health-related activities, including harassment and bullying.
- 2.6 Instruction courses, written materials, professional instruction, and supervision are some recommended means to provide health and safety information to young seafarers.