



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 7-049-1

Rev. Oct/2018

**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) [MLC, 2006](#) *Maritime Labour Convention, 2006*, as amended
 - (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 Notice 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 Notice supersedes Rev. Mar/2018. It has been amended to incorporate the 2016 amendments to the MLC, 2006, which enter into force 08 January 2019.

APPLICABILITY

This Notice 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 (MI-108), §7.43.

- 1.2 A SOHSP forms 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 RMI Marine Notice [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 Prior to 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 These young seafarers must also be given age-appropriate information about accident prevention and health protection on board ships. This should include 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.