

Performance of Work on Board Danish ships

In this folder you can read about the measures that need to be taken before you perform work on board Danish Ships.

The folder tells you how you can put into practice the provisions in chapter I, regarding information from the Danish Maritime Authority A.

These regulations cover all work performed on board merchant ships. Work carried out by non-crew members on board ships moored alongside the quay are also covered by the regulations.

The only work which is not covered, is loading and unloading operations, as well as shipyard work.

Planning and organizing work

In order to prevent accident risks and health hazards, you must already during the planning stage of the work ensure that it can be carried out safely and without any risk to health.

You must make preparation plans of both the work and the work itself, as well as any subsequent work, e.g. inspections, repairs etc.

A good working environment on board is often the result of the efforts of a well-functioning safety group/organization. It is important that the safety group is involved in the planning as early as possible.

When planning and organizing work you must apply the generally applicable principles of prevention.

Principles of prevention

The principles of prevention are listed below in the order in which they are to be applied:

- prevention of risks
-e.g. the removal of unnecessary substances and materials
- adjusting working conditions for the employee with the use of properly designed workplaces, the correct choice of equipment and working methods – e.g. ergonomically suitable workplaces and choice of working methods in connection with cash counters on board passenger ships. The use of correct equipment – where heavy lifting work must be minimized – for example in connection with the provisioning of stores
- substituting dangerous material with something non-dangerous or less dangerous

-e.g. substituting paint with a high code number with a low code number

- select the least dangerous working process or method
-e.g. refrain from using compressed air when cleaning machinery or machine parts in the engine room
- neutralize risks at the source
-e.g. encapsulation to minimize noise
- reduction of pollution
-e.g. by establishing local exhaust-outlets over stationary workstations, e.g. above mixing tables and cleaning vessels in the paint shop or welding station in the engine room.

Where the above mentioned principles cannot be applied for technical or organizational reasons, relevant personal protective equipment must be used.

A job may have several effects on the working environment. Therefore, planning must include an assessment of both the individual effects and the overall effect.

The Danish Maritime Authority has prepared a folder on how an assessment of the workplace can be carried out in practice.

The concept of unnecessary exposure

You must not be exposed to any unnecessary effect or stress during your work.

This means that effective measures must be taken against the effects of noise, radiation, substances and materials as well as physical loads if it is technically possible.

So it is not enough just to observe that the prescribed limit values, standards or other limits are kept.

The Danish Maritime Authority uses the same limit values for substances and materials as the Danish Working Environment Service.

Duty of notification

You must be informed of occupational hazards and illness risks your job may involve.

Training and introduction

You must receive adequate training and instruction. In this way you will get the necessary qualifications for carrying out your work in a safe manner. This applies no matter who your employer is and for how long you are employed.

Instructions must be given both when you are to perform the work for the first time and when the work changes, e.g. if new technology is introduced.

Supervision of the working environment

Inspections of the working environment on board must be carried out.

The safety group/organization must be given the opportunity to participate in this inspection.

Especially for the ship owner and master an inspection includes checking that:

- there is a written assessment of workplaces involving a particular risk to health and safety
- expert assistance is obtained when necessary, e.g. from the Danish Maritime Occupational Health Service
- a list of occupational accidents is kept on board and that reports on the accidents are drawn up
- an inspection is carried out to ensure that conditions are in order in those cases where harmful effects may arise, e.g. unnecessary effects from noise, substances and materials as well as physical stress. The necessary relevant measurements must be carried out and the results of these must be kept on board.

The legal responsibility for ensuring that the work on board is carried out safely and without any risk to health lies with the ship owner, the master and the supervisor – but everybody on board should work to promote a safe and healthy working environment.