

Marine Information Bulletin

Safety training for crew

Background

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* (the Regulation) details the safety training requirements for crew. These training requirements will improve the knowledge and skills of all crew to assist in the safe operation of the ship. A crew member is to undertake training according to the length of sea service as detailed below.

Long term crew

The Regulation requires the owner or master of a commercial or fishing ship to ensure each person in the ship's crew has completed the course of training known as Elements of Shipboard Safety (ESS) if the person is employed for six months or more.

The six months relates to the period of employment with the company as crew and commences at the time of their engagement. The period is calculated on the basis of normal calendar months. The six months is also cumulative in that it is unaffected by movements of crew from one ship to another in circumstances where the owner has a fleet of commercial or fishing ships. Similarly, it is unaffected by seasonal influences in the fishing or commercial sector that interrupt the period of employment of crew. For more information on this six months definition, see the Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) website at www.msq.qld.gov.au.

The training must be conducted by a registered training organisation approved by MSQ.

The Regulation also allows crew to complete a course equivalent to the Elements of Shipboard Safety course. Examples of equivalent or superior courses are:

The completion of all the following units of competency from the Maritime Training Package (TDM07):

- TDMMF5407A – Observe safety and emergency procedures on a coastal vessel
- TDMMF5507A – Fight and extinguish fires on board a coastal vessel
- TDMMF1107B – Survive at sea in the event of vessel abandonment.

The completion of both of the following ESS units from the Seafood Industry Training Package (SFI04):

- SFICORE 106A – Meet workplace OHS requirements
- SFISHIP 212B – Take emergency action on board a vessel, or:

The completion of all three of the following Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) approved International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW95) courses:

- Table A-VI/1-1 – Specification of minimum standard of competence in personal survival techniques
- Table A-VI/1-2 – Specification of minimum standard of competence in fire prevention and fire fighting
- Table A-VI/1-4 – Specification of minimum standard of competence in personal safety and social responsibilities, or
- Small Vessel Operators Certificate (SVOC) course.

Operators of ships that only require a recreational marine driver licence to act as master must ensure that all crew members have a recreational marine driver licence.

Short term crew

The Regulation also requires crew employed for less than six months to complete an approved safety induction course appropriate to the expected length of employment and duties the person is expected to perform. This safety induction may be conducted by the owner or master of the ship.

A course for crew employed for less than six months will be deemed approved if it complies with the safety training program requirements set out in the National Marine Guidance Manual: Guidelines for Onboard Safety Training, Australian Domestic Vessels (the Guidelines) published by the National Marine Safety Committee. The content of the course should be appropriate to:

- nature and operation of the ship
- expected length of the person's employment
- capacity in which the person is employed or engaged on board

- general safety obligation on all persons involved with a ship's operations not to cause the ship to be operated unsafely
- responsibility of the person's employer to provide information, instruction, training, and supervision to employees under Work Health and Safety (WH&S) legislation
- the owner's and master's duty of care for the health and safety of all persons onboard.

All training programs must be documented as part of the ship's Safety Management Plan. A record must also be kept of all crew who have undertaken the training, signed by the master or the person conducting the training, and the person undergoing the training. The owner or master of a commercial or fishing ship is responsible for ensuring every person in the ship's crew has completed the relevant course. There are penalties for breaches of this requirement that apply to both the owner and master of the ship.

Crew to which the Regulation applies

These safety training requirements apply to every person who is part of the crew. The Regulation defines crew as including: the ship's crew members and any other persons employed or engaged in any capacity on board, but does not include the master or pilot of the ship.

For example, the master of a 6 m commercial vessel operating with recreational licence does **not** require ESS but any crew on board would need to complete an ESS course. However, in the above case, the general safety obligation and duty of care under WH&S applies to the master and crew and the safety management system should cover the elements of ESS especially if the master as the sole operator has not completed an ESS course.

In other words, anyone who is employed by the owner or master to do something on board, including customer service staff, is required to complete the relevant safety training, regardless of the capacity in which they are employed or engaged. Persons who may work on a ship but are not employed or engaged by the owner or master are not required to complete the safety training.

For example, both a research scientist on a fishing ship and a photographer employed on a tourist ship are considered to be crew. On the other hand, a freelance photographer working for himself on a day ship is considered a passenger and only requires the safety briefing given to other passengers.

Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
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