



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

Singapore Operations Office:

10 Anson Road #25-16, International Plaza, Singapore 079903

Tel: (65) 6224 2345 Fax: (65) 6227 2345

Email: info@tvship.com Website: www.tvship.com

MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-9/2012/1

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies

SUBJECT: HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES FOR SEAFARERS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AND HAZARDOUS WORK

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "AIDS" – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- "HIV" – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- "MLC 2006" – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- "SOHSP" – Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Program

PURPOSE:

The MLC 2006 requires specific consideration in a ship's occupational safety and health policy program of the safety and health of seafarers under the age of 18. This marine circular identifies and establishes restrictions on types of work considered hazardous because they either present special risk of accident, or may have a detrimental effect on a young seafarer's health or physical development, or require a special degree of maturity, experience or skill.

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all seafarers under the age of 18 employed by ship owners / operators on board Tuvalu flagged vessels.

BACKGROUND:

The Government of Tuvalu, on 16 February 2012, ratified the MLC 2006 which requires each Member State to address the use of SRPS by shipowners / operators to recruit seafarers to man vessels under its flag.

REFERENCES:

- (a) Merchant Shipping Act 2008 (Section 84)
- (b) MLC 2006 - Standard A1.1(4)
- (c) MLC 2006 - Standard A4.3.2(b)
- (d) MLC 2006 - Guideline B4.3.10
- (e) Tuvalu Marine Guidance MG-3/2012/1

CONTENTS:

1. No ship owner / operator shall engage a seafarer under the age of 18 in employment or work considered hazardous in accordance with this marine circular and international standards.
2. Seafarers under the age of 18 shall not be permitted to engage in activities that are considered potentially hazardous.

3. A ship owner / operator shall address in their Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Program (SOHSP) the safety and health of young seafarers and, specifically, restrictions on work considered hazardous for those under the age of 18.
4. Potentially hazardous activities, which are to be determined by the ship owner / operator in the development of their SOHSP, shall include but not be limited to:
 - 4.1. The lifting, moving or carrying of heavy loads or objects;
 - 4.2. Entry into boilers, tanks and cofferdams;
 - 4.3. Exposure to harmful noise and vibration levels;
 - 4.4. Operating hoisting and other power machinery and tools, or acting as signalers to operators of such equipment;
 - 4.5. Handling mooring or tow lines or anchoring equipment;
 - 4.6. Rigging;
 - 4.7. Work aloft or on deck in heavy weather;
 - 4.8. Night Work (for the purpose of this requirement, "night" shall be defined as a period of at least nine hours starting no later than midnight ship's time and ending no earlier than 0500 hours ship's time);
 - 4.9. Servicing of electrical equipment;
 - 4.10. Exposure to potentially harmful materials, or harmful physical agents such as dangerous or toxic substances and ionizing radiations; when making a determination of which activities are hazardous, a shipowner/operator also should consider hazardous materials codes on a vessel-specific basis, as applicable;
 - 4.11. The cleaning of catering machinery; and
 - 4.12. The handling or taking charge of ship's boats.
5. Prior to employment, a seafarer under the age of 18 shall be:
 - 5.1. assessed for competency to perform a task or job while being given an explanation and/or walk-through of all procedures, including safe working practices, and required to take pre-job training, if competence cannot be demonstrated.
 - 5.2. Provided with age-appropriate information concerning the prevention of accidents and the protection of their health on board ships. Such information should include the detrimental effects of alcohol and drug abuse and the abuse of other potentially harmful substances, and the risks and concerns related to HIV/AIDS and other health-risk-related activities.
6. Recommended measures for imparting safety and health information on young seafarers include adequate instruction in courses, the distribution of written materials and professional instruction and supervision.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry