



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Guidance Notice 095 – Fitness for Duty: Alcohol Limits

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

References:

- International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping 1978, as amended;
- Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Manning, Training and Certification for Seafarers) Regulations 2006;

1. Background

The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping 1978, as amended (STCW), was further amended in June 2010 ("the Manila amendments").

Regulation VIII/1, Code A-VIII/1 and B-VIII/1 brought in new provisions on fitness for duty – alcohol limits

This SGN explains those provisions as they apply to Gibraltar ships.

2. Alcohol limits for seafarers

Any level of alcohol consumption by crew members on board a ship has implications for the safety of the vessel, the crew and any passengers. Even small quantities of alcohol have been shown to sufficiently impair judgment and increase the risk of accidents.

It is an offence for a professional seafarer to be impaired by drink (or drugs) whilst on duty on board a ship or at any time on board a vessel if they might be required to undertake emergency duties to protect the safety of passengers.

Among the Manila amendments were provisions introducing mandatory alcohol limits within STCW Regulation VIII/1 (Fitness for Duty). The Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Manning, Training and Certification of Seafarers) Regulations 2006 give effect to the STCW Convention in Gibraltar.

The alcohol limits set within the Gibraltar Merchant Shipping (Manning, Training and Certification for Seafarers) Regulations 2006, Regulation 39, is as follows:

- Not greater than 0.05% blood alcohol level (BAC) or 0,25 mg/l alcohol in the breath or a quantity of alcohol leading to such alcohol concentration.

These limits apply to professional mariners on all Gibraltar registered ships and to any ship operating in British Gibraltar Territorial waters.

The Manila amendments also included a recommendation that all companies should consider the implementation of a clearly written policy of drug and alcohol abuse prevention including a prohibition on the consumption of alcohol four hours prior to serving as a member of a watch.

Dylan Cocklan
Maritime Administrator (Ag)

Issue date: 15 December 2020

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