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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 0809213.GEN

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Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

Re: MLC 2006 Title III and OSV Construction

I. This Fleet letter applies to all vessels under the Vanuatu Flag

II. Requirements

Under the MLC 2006 the use of the term Special Ships is made in Title III, Standard A3.1 of the Code. The following paragraphs are taken from the Requirements (A) of the Code and not the Recommendations (B).

6. With respect to general requirements for accommodations:

...

(d) in passenger ships, and in special ships constructed in compliance with the IMO Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 1983, and subsequent versions (hereinafter called special purpose ships), the competent authority may, on condition that satisfactory arrangements are made for lighting and ventilation, permit the location of sleeping rooms below the load line, but in no case shall they be located immediately beneath working alleyways;

...

9. When sleeping accommodation on board ships is required, the following requirements for sleeping rooms apply:

(a) in ships other than passenger ships, an individual sleeping room shall be provided for each seafarer; in the case of ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage or special purpose ships, exemptions from this requirement may be granted by the competent authority after consultation with the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations concerned;

(b) separate sleeping rooms shall be provided for men and for women;

(c) sleeping rooms shall be of adequate size and properly equipped so as to ensure reasonable comfort and to facilitate tidiness;

(d) a separate berth for each seafarer shall in all circumstances be provided;

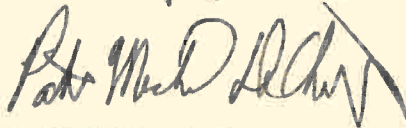
- (e) the minimum inside dimensions of a berth shall be at least 198 centimeters by 80 centimeters;
- (f) in single berth seafarers' sleeping rooms the floor area shall not be less than:
 - (i) 4.5 square meters in ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage;
 - (ii) 5.5 square meters in ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or over but less than 10,000 gross tonnage;
 - (iii) 7 square meters in ships of 10,000 gross tonnage or over;
- (g) however, in order to provide single berth sleeping rooms on ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage, passenger ships and special purpose ships, the competent authority may allow a reduced floor area;
- (h) in ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage other than passenger ships and special purpose ships, sleeping rooms may be occupied by a maximum of two seafarers; the floor area of such sleeping rooms shall not be less than 7 square meters;
- (i) on passenger ships and special purpose ships the floor area of sleeping rooms for seafarers not performing the duties of ships' officers shall not be less than:
 - (i) 7.5 square meters in rooms accommodating two persons;
 - (ii) 11.5 square meters in rooms accommodating three persons;
 - (iii) 14.5 square meters in rooms accommodating four persons;
- (j) on special purpose ships sleeping rooms may accommodate more than four persons; the floor area of such sleeping rooms shall not be less than 3.6 square meters per person;
- (k) on ships other than passenger ships and special purpose ships, sleeping rooms for seafarers who perform the duties of ships' officers, where no private sitting room or day room is provided, the floor area per person shall not be less than:
 - (i) 7.5 square meters in ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage;
 - (ii) 8.5 square meters in ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or over but less than 10,000 gross tonnage;
 - (iii) 10 square meters in ships of 10,000 gross tonnage or over;
- (l) on passenger ships and special purpose ships the floor area for seafarers performing the duties of ships' officers where no private sitting room or day room is provided, the floor area per person for junior officers shall not be less than 7.5 square meters and for senior officers not less than 8.5 square meters; junior officers are understood to be at the operational level, and senior officers at the management level;
- (m) the master, the chief engineer and the chief navigating officer shall have, in addition to their sleeping rooms, an adjoining sitting room, day room or equivalent additional space; ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage may be exempted by the competent authority from this requirement after consultation with the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations concerned;

(n) for each occupant, the furniture shall include a clothes locker of ample space (minimum 475 liters) and a drawer or equivalent space of not less than 56 liters; if the drawer is incorporated in the clothes locker then the combined minimum volume of the clothes locker shall be 500 liters; it shall be fitted with a shelf and be able to be locked by the occupant so as to ensure privacy;

(o) each sleeping room shall be provided with a table or desk, which may be of the fixed, drop-leaf or slide-out type, and with comfortable seating accommodation as necessary.

CONCLUSION:

It is the determination of this Administration for ships contracted to be built between 20 August 2013 and such time as the MLC 2006 may be amended to include specific relaxations for special ships of offshore support vessel character, OSVs need only comply with the MLC 2006 Title 3 accommodation requirements for "Special Purpose Ships" in Standard A3.1 of the Code.



Patrick Michael DeCharles II
by the direction of the
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu

