

**MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT**  
**(CHAPTER 179, SECTION 100)**

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (CREW ACCOMMODATION) REGULATIONS**

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**MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT**  
**(CHAPTER 179, SECTION 100)**

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (CREW ACCOMMODATION) REGULATIONS**

**[1st December 1997]**

**Citation**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations.

**PART I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Definitions**

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires --

"approved" means approved by the Director or by an authorised organisation;

"authorised organisation" means an organisation authorised by the Minister under section 116 of the Act for the survey or inspection of Singapore ships and the issue of any certificate under Part V of the Act;

"crew accommodation" includes such sleeping rooms, mess rooms, sanitary accommodation, hospital accommodation and recreation accommodation as are provided for the use of the crew;

"existing ship" means a ship which is not a new ship;

"new ship" means a ship of which the keel is laid, or which is at a similar stage of construction, on or after 1st December 1997;

"officer" means a person other than a master designated as such by the crew agreement made under section 53 of the Act;

"petty officer" means a rating serving in a supervisory position or a position of special responsibility who is designated as such by the crew agreement made under section 53 of the Act;

"rating" means a member of the crew other than the master or an officer;

"ship" means a ship to which these Regulations apply;

"special limit voyage" means a voyage within the following limits:

from a point where the longitude 103 ° 00 ' East cuts the West coast of Johore, thence due South to latitude 00 ° 30 ' North, thence due East to longitude 105 ° 00 ' East, thence due North to latitude 01 ° 00 ' North, thence to the point 02 ° 00 ' North, 104 ° 15 ' East, thence due West to the coast of Johore and thence following the coast of Johore Westwards to the starting point;

"surveyor of ships" means a person appointed as a surveyor of ships under section 5 of the Act;

"tons" means gross tonnage measured in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations (Rg 12);

"tug" means a ship constructed or adapted primarily to engage in towing or similar pursuits.

**Application and exemption**

3. --(1) Unless otherwise expressly provided, these Regulations --

(a) shall apply to all new ships, subject to sub-paragraph (c);

(b) shall not apply to any existing ship, subject to sub-paragraph (c), unless --

(i) the owner of the ship so requests; or

(ii) the crew accommodation in such ship is substantially altered or reconstructed and such alteration or reconstruction takes place on or after 1st December 1997;

(c) shall not apply to --

(i) ships of less than 500 tons;

(ii) ships primarily propelled by sail but having auxiliary engines;

(iii) ships engaged in fishing or in similar pursuits;

(iv) tugs; or

(v) ships exclusively engaged on special limit voyages.

(2) These Regulations shall be applied where reasonable and practicable to --

(a) ships between 200 and 500 tons; and

(b) ships engaged in whaling or in similar pursuits.

(3) The Director may exempt any ship from any of these Regulations either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as he thinks fit if he is satisfied that compliance with that regulation is either impracticable or unreasonable in respect of that ship.

## **PART II**

### **PLANNING AND CONTROL OF CREW ACCOMMODATION**

#### **Plans**

**4.** --(1) Subject to paragraph (3), before the construction of a ship is begun, a plan of the ship, showing the location and general arrangement of the crew accommodation, shall be submitted to the Director or an authorised organisation for approval.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), before --

(a) the construction of the crew accommodation in a new ship is begun; or

(b) the crew accommodation in an existing ship is substantially altered or reconstructed, detailed plans of, and information concerning, the accommodation, showing the allocation of each space, the disposition of furniture and fittings, the means and arrangement of ventilation, lighting and heating and the sanitary arrangements, shall be submitted to the Director or an authorised organisation for approval.

(3) Where --

(a) permission is granted by the Director or an authorised organisation; or

(b) an alteration or reconstruction of the crew accommodation in a ship is temporary or is being carried out as a consequence of an emergency or an accident,

the plans referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) may be submitted to the Director or an authorised organisation as soon as practicable.

#### **Surveys and certificates**

**5.** --(1) The survey of ships, so far as regards the enforcement of the provisions of these Regulations, shall be carried out by a surveyor of ships or an authorised organisation.

(2) A ship shall be surveyed on every occasion when --

(a) it is registered;

(b) its crew accommodation has been substantially altered or reconstructed; or

(c) the Director has reason to believe that its crew accommodation does not comply with the provisions of these Regulations.

(3) After a survey under paragraph (2), a ship which complies with these Regulations shall be issued with a crew accommodation certificate by the Director or an authorised organisation.

(4) The crew accommodation certificate issued under paragraph (3) shall be in Form 1 set out in the Schedule.

(5) When a ship is exempted from any of these Regulations under regulation 3, an exemption certificate for crew accommodation in respect of the ship shall be issued by the Director or an authorised organisation.

(6) The exemption certificate for crew accommodation issued under paragraph (5) shall be in Form 2 set out in the Schedule.

(7) The certificates issued under paragraphs (3) and (5) shall be posted up in a prominent and accessible place in the ship.

## **PART III**

### **CREW ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **General**

**6.** --(1) The location, means of access, structure and arrangement in relation to other spaces of crew accommodation shall be such as to ensure adequate security, protection against weather and sea, and insulation from heat or cold, or undue noise or effluvia from other spaces.

(2) There shall be no direct openings into sleeping rooms from spaces for cargo and machinery or from galleys, lamp and paint rooms, or from engine, deck and other bulk storerooms, drying rooms, communal

wash places or water closets. That part of the bulkhead separating such places from sleeping rooms and external bulkheads shall be efficiently constructed of steel or other approved material and shall be watertight and gastight.

(3) External bulkheads of sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be adequately insulated. All machinery casings and all boundary bulkheads of galleys and other spaces in which heat is produced shall be adequately insulated where there is a possibility of resulting heat effects in adjoining accommodation or passageways. Care shall also be taken to provide protection from heat effects of steam and/or hot water service pipes.

(4) Internal bulkheads shall be of approved material which is not likely to harbour vermin.

(5) Sleeping rooms, mess rooms, recreation rooms and alley-ways in the crew accommodation space shall be adequately insulated to prevent condensation or overheating.

(6) Main steam and exhaust pipes for winches and similar gear shall not pass through crew accommodation nor, whenever technically possible, through alley-ways leading to crew accommodation; where they do pass through such alley-ways they shall be adequately insulated and encased.

(7) Inside panelling or sheeting shall be of material with a surface easily kept clean. Tongued and grooved boarding or any other form of construction likely to harbour vermin shall not be used.

(8) The construction of the accommodation shall comply with the relevant provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Regulations (Rg 11) (as amended from time to time) as regards the fire-prevention or fire-retarding measures.

(9) The wall surface and deckheads in sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be made of a material with a surface easily kept clean and, if painted, shall be light in colour. Lime wash must not be used.

(10) The wall surfaces shall be renewed or restored as necessary.

(11) The decks in all crew accommodation shall be of approved material and construction and shall provide a surface impervious to damp and easily kept clean.

(12) Where the floorings are of composition, the joinings with sides shall be rounded to avoid crevices.

(13) Sufficient drainage shall be provided.

#### **Ventilation**

7. --(1) Crew accommodation shall be adequately ventilated.

(2) The system of ventilation shall be controlled so as to maintain the air in a satisfactory condition and to ensure a sufficiency of air movement in all conditions of weather and climate.

(3) Ships regularly engaged on voyages in the tropics and the Persian Gulf shall be equipped with both mechanical means of ventilation and electric fans, except that one only of these means need be adopted in spaces where this ensures satisfactory ventilation.

(4) Except for those ships normally employed in the cold waters of the northern or southern hemispheres, ships engaged outside the tropics shall be equipped with either mechanical means of ventilation or electric fans.

(5) Power for the operation of the aids to the ventilation required by paragraphs (3) and (4) shall, when practicable, be available at all times when the crew is living or working on board and when conditions so require.

#### **Heating system**

8. --(1) An adequate system of heating the crew accommodation shall be provided except in ships engaged exclusively in voyages in the tropics or the Persian Gulf.

(2) The heating system shall, when practicable, be in operation at all times when the crew is living or working on board and when conditions require its use.

(3) In any ship in which a heating system is required, the heating shall be by means of steam, hot water, warm air or electricity.

(4) In any ship in which heating is provided by a stove, measures shall be taken to ensure that the stove is of sufficient size and is properly installed and guarded and that the air is not fouled.

(5) The heating system shall be capable of maintaining the temperature in crew accommodation at a satisfactory level under normal conditions of weather and climate likely to be met with on service. Heat load calculations shall be submitted to the Director or an authorised organisation for approval to show that the heating system is capable of ensuring that the temperature in crew accommodation can be maintained at 21 °C when the ventilation system provided for those rooms is working so as to supply at least 25 m<sup>3</sup> of fresh air per hour for each person for whom that room is designed and when the ambient temperature is -1 °C.

(6) Radiators and other heating apparatus shall be so placed and, where necessary, shielded as to avoid risk of fire or danger or discomfort to the occupants.

#### **Lighting arrangement**

**9.** --(1) Subject to such special arrangements as may be permitted by the Director in passenger ships, sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be properly lighted by natural light and shall be provided with adequate artificial light.

(2) All crew spaces shall be adequately lighted. The minimum standard for natural lighting in living rooms shall be such as to permit a person with a normal vision to read on a clear day an ordinary newspaper in any part of the space available for free movement. When it is not possible to provide adequate natural lighting, artificial lighting of the above minimum standard shall be provided.

(3) In all ships, electric lights shall be provided in the crew accommodation. If there are not 2 independent sources of electricity for lighting, additional lighting shall be provided by properly constructed lamps or lighting apparatus for emergency use.

(4) Artificial lighting shall be so disposed as to give the maximum benefit to the occupants of the room.

(5) In sleeping rooms, an electric reading lamp shall be installed at the head of each berth.

#### **Sleeping rooms**

**10.** --(1) Sleeping rooms shall be situated above load line amidships or aft.

(2) In exceptional cases, the Director may, if the size, type or intended service of the ship render any other location unreasonable or impracticable, permit the location of sleeping rooms in the fore part of the ship, but in no case forward of the collision bulkhead.

(3) In passenger ships, the Director 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 immediately beneath working alley-ways.

(4) The floor area per person of sleeping rooms intended for ratings shall be not less than --

(a) 1.85 m<sup>2</sup> in vessels of less than 800 tons;

(b) 2.35 m<sup>2</sup> in vessels of 800 tons or more, but less than 3,000 tons; and

(c) 2.78 m<sup>2</sup> in vessels of 3,000 tons or more,

except that, in the case of passenger ships in which more than 4 ratings are berthed in one room, the minimum floor area per person may be 2.22 m<sup>2</sup>.

(5) In the case of ships in which are employed such groups of ratings as necessitate the employment of a substantially larger number of ratings than would otherwise be employed, the Director may, in respect of such groups, reduce the minimum floor area of sleeping rooms per person, subject to the conditions that -

(a) the total sleeping space allotted to the group or groups is not less than would have been allotted had the numbers not been so increased; and

(b) the minimum floor area of sleeping rooms is not less than --

(i) 1.67 m<sup>2</sup> per person in ships of less than 3,000 tons; and

(ii) 1.85 m<sup>2</sup> per person in ships of 3,000 tons or more.

(6) Space occupied by berths and lockers, chests of drawers and seats shall be included in the measurement of the floor area. Small or irregularly shaped spaces which do not add effectively to the space available for free movement and cannot be used for installing furniture shall be excluded.

(7) The clear head room in crew sleeping rooms shall not be less than 1.90 m.

(8) Except in ships of less than 800 tons, there shall be a sufficient number of sleeping rooms to provide a separate room or rooms for each department.

(9) The number of persons allowed to occupy sleeping rooms shall not exceed the following maxima:

(a) officers in charge of a department, navigating and engineer officers in charge of a watch and senior radio officers or operators -- one person per room;

(b) other officers -- one person per room wherever possible, and in no case more than 2;

(c) petty officers -- one or 2 persons per room, and in no case more than 2;

(d) other ratings -- 2 or 3 persons per room wherever possible, and in no case more than 4.

(10) With a view to ensuring adequate and more comfortable accommodation, the Director may grant permission to accommodate up to 10 ratings per sleeping room in the case of certain passenger ships.

(11) The maximum number of persons to be accommodated in any sleeping room shall be indelibly and legibly marked in some place in the room where it can conveniently be seen.

(12) Members of the crew shall be provided with individual berths.

- (13) Berths shall not be placed side by side in such a way that access to one berth can be obtained only over another.
- (14) Berths shall not be arranged in tiers of more than 2. In the case of berths placed along the ship's side, there shall be only a single tier where a sidelight is situated above a berth.
- (15) The lower berth in a double tier shall be not less than 30 cm above the floor. The upper berth shall be placed approximately midway between the bottom of the lower berth and the lower side of the deckhead beams.
- (16) The minimum inside dimensions of a berth shall be 1.90 m by 0.68 m.
- (17) The framework and the lee-board, if any, of a berth shall be of approved material, hard, smooth, and not likely to corrode or to harbour vermin.
- (18) If tubular frames are used for the construction of berths, they shall be completely sealed and without perforations which would give access to vermin.
- (19) Each berth shall be fitted with a spring bottom or a spring mattress and with a mattress of approved material. Stuffing of straw or other material likely to harbour vermin shall not be used.
- (20) When one berth is placed over another, a dust-proof bottom of wood, canvas or other approved material shall be fitted beneath the spring bottom of the upper berth.
- (21) Sleeping rooms shall be so planned and equipped as to ensure reasonable comfort for the occupants and to facilitate tidiness.
- (22) The furniture shall include a clothes locker for each occupant. The clothes lockers shall be not less than 1.52 m in height and of a cross-section area of 0.193 m<sup>2</sup> and shall be fitted with a shelf and a locking means.
- (23) Each sleeping room shall be provided with a table or desk, which may be of the fixed, dropleaf or slide-out type, and with comfortable seating accommodation as necessary.
- (24) The furniture shall be of smooth, hard material not liable to warp or corrode.
- (25) The drawer or equivalent space for each occupant shall be not less than 0.056 m<sup>3</sup>.
- (26) Sleeping rooms shall be fitted with curtains for the side-lights.
- (27) Sleeping rooms shall be fitted with a mirror, small cabinets for toilet requisites, a book rack and a sufficient number of coat hooks.
- (28) As far as practicable, berthing of crew members shall be so arranged that watches are separated and that no day men share a room with watch-keepers.

#### **Mess room**

- 11.** --(1) Adequate mess room accommodation shall be provided in all ships either by the provision of separate mess rooms for each group of the crew or a single combined mess room for all members of the crew.
- (2) The dimensions and equipment of each mess room shall be sufficient for the number of persons likely to use it at any one time.
- (3) Mess rooms shall be equipped with tables and seats of an approved type, sufficient for the number of persons likely to use them at any one time.
- (4) The Director may permit such exceptions to this regulation concerning mess room accommodation as may be necessary to meet the special conditions in passenger ships.
- (5) Mess rooms shall be located apart from the sleeping rooms and as close as practicable to the galley.
- (6) Where available pantries are not accessible to mess rooms, adequate lockers for mess utensils and proper facilities for washing utensils shall be provided.
- (7) The tops of tables and seats shall be of damp-resisting material, without cracks and capable of being easily cleaned.

#### **Recreation room**

- 12.** --(1) In all ships, a space or spaces to which the crew can have access when off duty shall be provided on an open deck. The space or spaces shall be of adequate area, having regard to the size of the ship and the crew.
- (2) Recreation accommodation, conveniently situated and appropriately furnished, shall be provided for officers and for ratings. Where this is not provided separately from the mess rooms, the latter shall be planned, furnished and equipped to give recreational facilities.

#### **Sanitary arrangement**

- 13.** --(1) Sufficient sanitary accommodation, including wash basins and tubs and/or shower baths, shall be provided in all ships.
- (2) The following minimum number of separate water closets shall be provided:

- (a) in ships of less than 800 tons -- 3;
- (b) in ships of 800 tons or more, but less than 3,000 tons -- 4;
- (c) in ships of 3,000 tons or more -- 6;
- (d) in ships where the radio officers or operators are accommodated in an isolated position, sanitary facilities near or adjacent thereto shall be provided.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4), the sanitary accommodation provided shall consist of separate sanitary accommodation for males and females if females are working or living on board.
- (4) Sanitary facilities for all members of the crew who do not occupy rooms to which private facilities are attached shall be provided on the following scale:
  - (a) one tub and/or shower bath for every 8 persons or less;
  - (b) one water closet for every 8 persons or less;
  - (c) one wash basin for every 6 persons or less,except that when the number of persons exceeds an even multiple of the specified number by less than one-half of the specified number, this surplus may be ignored for the purpose of this paragraph.
- (5) When the total number of the crew exceeds 100 and in passenger vessels normally engaged on voyages of not more than 4 hours" duration, consideration may be given by the Director to special arrangements or a reduction in the number of facilities required.
- (6) Cold fresh water and hot fresh water or means of heating water shall be available in all communal wash places --
  - (a) the crew shall be provided with --
    - (i) fresh water of capacity sufficient to provide at least 72 litres per man per day and drinking water of capacity sufficient to provide at least 18 litres per man per day; or
    - (ii) drinkable water of capacity sufficient to provide at least 90 litres per man per day if the fresh water provided under sub-paragraph (i) is also of drinkable quality;
  - (b) the number of days shall be sufficient to cover the longest voyage the ship is expected to undertake with a maximum of 30 days;
  - (c) if a distilling or evaporating plant capable of producing --
    - (i) at least 144 litres of fresh water per man per day and at least 36 litres of drinking water per man per day; or
    - (ii) at least 180 litres of drinkable water per man per day,is provided, the water capacity to be provided for the crew may be reduced to at least 7 days" supply, or sufficient to cover the longest voyage the ship is expected to undertake, whichever is the less, subject to sub-paragraph (a).
- (7) Wash basins and tub baths shall be of adequate size and constructed of approved material with a smooth surface not liable to crack, flake or corrode.
- (8) All water closets shall have ventilation to the open air, independently of any other part of the accommodation.
- (9) All water closets shall be of a pattern approved by the Director or an authorised organisation and shall be provided with an ample flush of water, available at all times and independently controllable.
- (10) Soil pipes and waste pipes shall be of adequate dimensions and shall be so constructed as to minimise the risk of obstruction and to facilitate cleaning.
- (11) Sanitary accommodation intended for the use of more than one person shall comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) floors shall be of approved durable material, easily cleaned and impervious to damp, and shall be properly drained;
  - (b) bulkheads shall be of steel or other approved material and shall be watertight up to at least 23 cm above the level of the deck;
  - (c) the accommodation shall be sufficiently lighted, heated and ventilated;
  - (d) water closets shall be situated convenient to, but separate from, sleeping rooms and wash rooms, without direct access from the sleeping rooms or from a passage between sleeping rooms and water closets to which there is no other access, except that this requirement shall not apply where a water closet is located in a compartment between 2 sleeping rooms having a total of not more than 4 persons;
  - (e) where there is more than one water closet in a compartment, it shall be sufficiently screened to ensure privacy.
- (12) In all ships, facilities for washing and drying clothes shall be provided on a scale appropriate to the size of the crew and the normal duration of the voyage.

(13) The facilities for washing clothes shall include suitable sinks, which may be installed in wash rooms, if separate laundry accommodation is not reasonably practicable, with an adequate supply of cold fresh water and hot fresh water or means of heating water.

(14) The facilities for drying clothes shall be provided in a compartment separate from sleeping rooms and mess rooms, adequately ventilated and heated and equipped with lines or other fittings for hanging clothes.

**Hospital accommodation**

14. --(1) In any ship carrying a crew of 15 or more and engaged in a voyage of more than 3 days" duration, separate hospital accommodation shall be provided. The Director may relax this requirement in respect of vessels engaged in coastal trade.

(2) The hospital accommodation shall be suitably situated, so that --

(a) it is easily accessible; and

(b) the occupants may be comfortably housed and may receive proper attention in all weathers.

(3) The arrangement of the entrance, berths, lighting, ventilation, heating and water supply shall be designed to ensure the comfort, and to facilitate the treatment, of the occupants.

(4) Hospitals shall be provided with one berth for every 50 or fraction of 50 members of the crew, and one berth for every additional 12 crew members or fraction thereof, above 50.

(5) Water closet accommodation shall be provided for the exclusive use of the occupants of the hospital accommodation, either as part of the accommodation or in close proximity thereto.

(6) Hospital accommodation shall not be used for any purpose other than medical purposes.

(7) An approved medicine chest with readily understandable instructions shall be carried in every ship which does not carry a doctor.

**Other arrangement**

15. --(1) Sufficiently and adequately ventilated accommodation for the hanging of oil skins shall be provided outside, but convenient to, the sleeping rooms.

(2) In ships regularly engaged on voyages to mosquito-infested ports, provision shall be made to protect the crews" quarters against the admission of mosquitoes by the fitting of suitable screens to side scuttles, ventilators and doors to the open deck.

**National habits and customs**

16. --(1) In the case of the ships mentioned in regulation 10 (5), the Director may, in respect of the members of the crew thereof, modify the requirements laid down in the foregoing regulations as far as may be necessary to take account of their distinctive national habits and customs and in particular may make special arrangements concerning the number of persons occupying sleeping rooms and concerning mess room and sanitary facilities.

(2) Where special arrangements are made under paragraph (1), the modified requirements shall be subject to the specifications set out in regulation 10 (1) and (2) and by the minimum sleeping space requirements prescribed for such groups of ratings in regulation 10 (5).

(3) In the case of the ships referred to in regulation 10 (5), the hospital, dining, bathing and sanitary facilities shall be provided and maintained on a standard, in regard to their quantity and practical usefulness, equal or comparable to that which obtains aboard all other ships of similar type.

**Maintenance of crew accommodation**

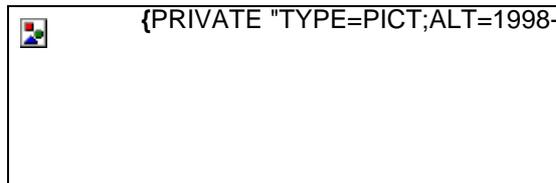
17. --(1) Crew accommodation shall be maintained in a clean and decently habitable condition and shall be kept free of goods and stores that are not the personal property of the occupants.

(2) The master, or an officer specially deputed for the purpose by him, accompanied by one or more members of the crew, shall inspect all crew accommodation at intervals of not more than one week. The results of each such inspection shall be recorded.

**THE SCHEDULE**

(FORM 1)

Regulation 5 (4)



(FORM 2)

Regulation 5 (6)



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