



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1  
SM10/4/5

Date: 30 August 2011

## Marine Notice No. 18 of 2011

### **Fitness for Duty and rest periods for watchkeeping personnel and those whose duties involve designated safety, security and prevention of pollution duties in accordance with the provisions of Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code**

TO SAMSA EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING PROVIDERS, SHIP OPERATORS AND OWNERS AND SEAFARERS

#### *Summary*

SAMSA hereby presents preliminary notice of the revised provisions of Regulation 6A, 6B and 6C of the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning) Regulations 1999, amended in accordance with the provisions of the STCW Code. These provisions take effect from 1 January 2012 and are applicable to all Seafarers as set out in Article III of the STCW Convention '78 as amended.

#### **1. Application**

In terms of Regulation VIII/1 of the STCW Convention 1978 as amended,

“Each Administration shall, for the purposes of preventing fatigue:

- 1.1** establish and enforce rest periods for watch-keeping personnel and for those whose duties involve designated safety, security or pollution prevention duties in accordance with the provisions of section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code; and
- 1.2** require that watch systems are so arranged that the efficiency of all watch-keeping personnel is not impaired by fatigue and that duties are so organized that the first watch at the commencement of a voyage and subsequent relieving watches are sufficiently rested and otherwise fit for duty.

#### **1.3 Article III of the STCW Convention '78 as amended states:**

The *Convention shall apply to seafarers* serving on board seagoing ships entitled to fly the flag of a Party except to those serving on board:

- a) Warships, naval auxiliaries or other ships owned or operated by a State and engaged only on governmental non-commercial service; ....;
- b) fishing vessels;
- c) pleasure yachts not engaged in trade; or;
- d) wooden ships of primitive build

#### **2 Minimum periods of rest**

**2.1** All persons who are assigned duty as officer in charge of a watch or as a rating forming part of a watch and those whose duties involve designated safety, prevention of pollution and security duties shall be provided with a rest period of not less than:

- 2.1.1** a minimum of 10 hours of rest in any 24-hour period; and
- 2.1.2** 77 hours in any 7-day period.

**2.2** The hours of rest may be divided into no more than two periods, one of which shall be at least 6 hours in length, and the intervals between consecutive periods of rest shall not exceed 14 hours.

**2.3** The requirements for rest periods laid down above need not be maintained in the case of an emergency or in other overriding operational conditions. Musters, fire-fighting and lifeboat drills, and drills prescribed by national laws and regulations and by international instruments, shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the disturbance of rest periods and does not induce fatigue.

**3. Exceptions to the minimum hours of rest required**

**3.1** Exceptions may be allowed from the required hours of rest in paragraph 1.2 and 2 above provided that the rest period is not less than 70 hours in any 7-day period.

**3.2** Exceptions from the weekly rest period provided for in paragraph 1.1 shall not be allowed for more than two consecutive weeks. The intervals between two periods of exceptions on board shall not be less than twice the duration of the exception.

**3.3** The hours of rest provided for in paragraph 1.1 may be divided into no more than three periods, one of which shall be at least 6 hours in length, and neither of the other two periods shall be less than one hour in length. The intervals between consecutive periods of rest shall not exceed 14 hours. Exceptions shall not extend beyond two 24-hour periods in any 7-day period.

**3.4** Further details may be found in Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code.

**30 August 2011**

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