



South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Date: 10 September 2014

Marine Notice No. 23 of 2014

Use of Personal Electronic Devices

TO MASTERS OF ALL SHIPS IN SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS, SHIP OPERATORS, OWNERS, MANAGERS AND SHIP'S AGENTS, STEVEDORES AND SHIP REPAIR COMPANIES, LABOUR BROKERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Summary

This marine notice advises the maritime industry of the dangers of using Personal Electronic Devices whilst at work:

The following are considered to be Personal Electronic Devices:

Cell phones, media players, personal audio devices and other similar devices, such as, but not limited to MP3 players, which used whilst carrying out shipboard operations, restrict the audibility and or concentration of an individual.

1. The use of Personal Electronic Devices whilst working can be a distraction that puts the user and others involved in the operation in danger because they:
 - a. Fail to hear safety signals / warnings
 - b. Do not pay attention to their working conditions and environment
 - c. Are not exclusively focused on the equipment they are operating
2. Companies are advised to adopt a policy on the subject and ensure that it is communicated to all staff and strictly enforced. Use of Personal Electronic Devices should only be for approved work related and or emergency communications.
3. Personal electronic devices may not be used whilst:
 - a. operating equipment or machinery e.g. forklifts, cranes, earth moving equipment etc
 - b. working in close proximity to said machinery or
 - c. working in hazardous locations onboard e.g. close to edges / at heights, near suspended loads, near flammable cargo / substances etc

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