



South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Marine Notice No. 34 of 2018

Recommended Medical Surveillance Protocols for the Stevedore Industry

TO PRINCIPAL OFFICERS / STEVEDORE COMPANIES / LABOUR BROKERS / OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

Summary

This Marine Notice provides guidance to Occupational Health Practitioners (OHPs) and to the stevedore industry on the medical surveillance protocols that should be used to certify workers “fit for duty”.

1. The Maritime Occupational Safety Regulations, 1994 does not provide guidance on the criteria OHPs should use to assess whether workers in the stevedore industry are fit for duty.
2. Ensuring that workers are healthy is important for both a healthy and safe working environment onboard vessels. Workers that have undiagnosed health problems may be a risk to others and themselves.
3. SAMSA has identified through legal compliance (Maritime Occupational Safety Regulations) audits of stevedore companies that OHP’s use various standards to conduct medical examinations of workers.
4. SAMSA conducted a study to ascertain the criteria OHPs should consider to certify workers fit for duty.
5. Details of the study in brief are as follows:
 - a. The study was qualitative and took the following into consideration:
 - b. Health hazard exposures to positions in the stevedore industry – refer table below:

Positon	Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Staff• Supervisors / Foreman• Welders, Fire Watch (separation stows)• Mobile Machinery Operators (forklift / crane / earth moving)• Lashing Hands• Signallers (Gangways)• Hatchmen• Drivers (vehicles)• General Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noise• Working at Heights• Welding Fumes• Airborne Irritants (dust from bulk cargo)• Ultraviolet / Infrared Radiation (welding)• Environmental Exposure (sunlight)• Ergonomics (manual handling / poor workstation)• Psychosocial (shift work)• Non ionising radiation

6. Each position in the stevedore industry was risk rated against the health hazards. Mitigating controls were also considered in the rating. The risk rating was ascertained as follows:

Consequence x Probability = Risk Rating.

7. The Risk Rating was used to ascertain the medical surveillance protocols for the stevedore industry.
8. The Medical surveillance protocols are as follows:

Stevedore Medical surveillance protocols

Medical Surveillance Protocols	Medical History	Physical Assessment	Psychological questionnaire	Audiometry	Spirometry	Colour vision screen	Chest X-ray	Biological effect monitoring	Immunology screening	Biological monitoring
Administrative staff	v	v	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supervisors/foreman/project managers	c	c	-	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Welders / Fire Watch	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Machinery operators	c	c	-	c	c	-	?*	-	-	-
Lashing hands	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Signallers- gangways/man cages	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	-	-
Hatchmen	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	-	-
Drivers	c	c	-	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
General workers	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	-	-

(* Dependent on cargo)

9. Various bulk/bagged cargoes handled by stevedores may have an impact on the health of stevedores and additional measures may need to be considered. Protocols for cargo frequently handled are tabled below

Specific guidelines for various bulk cargo handled in the stevedore industry

Medical Surveillance Protocols	Medical History	Physical Assessment	Spirometry	Chest X-ray	Biological effect monitoring	Immunology screening	Biological monitoring	Comments
1. Wheat	x	x	x			x*		Immunology testing if atopic symptoms present.
2. Mineral dust	x	x	x	x				High risk exposure to bulk product.
3. Fruit	x	x						
4. Rice (bagged)	x	x						
5. Sugar (bagged)	x	x						
6. Cement (bagged)	x	x	x	x*				If cement dust exposure from unbagged/bulk product, spirometry, CXR indicated.
7. Anthracite (bagged)	x	x	x*	x*				If notable exposure from bulk product, spirometry and CXR indicated.
8. Manganese ore (bulk)	x	x	x	x	x*		x*	If exposure exceeds 50% of OEL, biological effect and biologic monitoring will be required.
9. Urea (bulk)	x	x	x					

Medical Surveillance Protocols	Medical History	Physical Assessment	Spirometry	Chest X-ray	Biological effect monitoring	Immunology screening	Biological monitoring	Comments
10. Coal (bulk)	x	x	x	x				
11. Soya (bulk)	x	x	x					
12. Free-flow agriproducts (bulk)	x	x	x					
13. Chrome ore (bulk)	x	x	x				x*	If exposure exceeding 50% OEL, Biological monitoring indicated.

10. With respect to bulk cargoes not mentioned in the above table it is important that the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and or International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC Code) is consulted for guidance and the OHP advised.
11. Due regard should be given to the portability of positions. i.e multitasking and the exposure to additional hazards.
12. It is recommended that only appropriately qualified OHPs are used to certify workers fit for duty.
13. It is envisioned that the foregoing protocols will be incorporated into the relevant Code of Safe Working Practice referenced in the amended Maritime Occupational Safety Regulations.
14. SAMSA strongly recommends that the above protocols are used by OHP's when conducting medical examinations.

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