



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1
SM10/4/3/P

Date: 22 October 2013

Marine Notice No. 31 of 2013

Height of Platform for Personal Survival Techniques Training.

TO SAMSA EXAMINERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING PROVIDERS AND SEAFARERS.

Summary

This marine notice specifies the height of platform required when presenting Personal Survival Techniques (PST) training.

1. The International Convention on Standards, Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers 1978 as amended, and the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations 2013, make provision for training in Personal Survival Techniques.
2. An element of the training required concerning “action to be taken when required to abandon ship” is to “safely jump from a height into the water”
3. SAMSA hereby specifies that the height of the platform shall be 3m above the water, subject to the following:
 - a. Existing platforms that are within 1m of the required height above the water, need not be altered. (“Existing platforms” = in use by an accredited training institution for two years before this Notice)
 - b. Any alteration to an existing platform and the establishment of new platforms, shall take into account the available depth of water below the platform.
 - c. Training providers shall ensure that access to the platform is safe; that the depth of water relative to the height above the water is adequate and that there is a safe means of exiting the water, following a jump.
 - d. There is a rapid rescue response unit to assist any trainee requiring urgent assistance.
 - e. New platforms shall meet the 3m height requirement and be constructed taking the above factors into account.
4. This Marine Notice is effective immediately with the proviso that any alteration required by this Notice, shall be completed by 15 January 2014.

5. Training providers shall notify SAMSA on completion of the alterations (if any) and request an on-site inspection to approve the alterations.
6. Training providers unable to meet the requirements set out in this Marine Notice, may make submission to the local SAMSA office whereupon the Principal Officer will make a ruling.

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