



South African Maritime Safety Authority

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Marine Notice No. 33 of 2018

Recommended Medical Surveillance Protocols for the Ship Repair / Maintenance Industry

TO PRINCIPAL OFFICERS / SHIP REPAIR / MAINTENANCE COMPANIES / LABOUR BROKERS / OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

Summary

This Marine Notice provides guidance to Occupational Health Practitioners (OHPs) and to the ship repair / maintenance 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 Occupational Health Practitioners (OHPs) should use to assess whether workers in the ship repair / maintenance 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. SAMS has identified through legal compliance (Maritime Occupational Safety Regulations) audits of ship repair / maintenance companies that OHP’s use various standards to conduct medical examinations of workers.
4. SAMS 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 ship repair / maintenance industry – refer table below:

Positon	Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative staff• Supervisors / Foreman• Welders, Cutters, Burners, Boilermakers, Grinders, Fire Watch• Grit Blasters• Tank Cleaners• Electricians• Mobile Machinery Operators• Riggers• Fitters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confined Space Work• Noise• Working at Heights• Welding Fumes• Chemicals• Airborne Irritants• Ultraviolet / Infrared Radiation (welding)• Environmental Exposure (sunlight)• Ergonomics (manual handling / poor workstation / vibration)

Positon	Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipe Fitters / Plumbers • Scaffolding Erectors • Painting • Chippers / Scrapers • Marine Chemist • General Worker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial (shift work) • Hazardous Biological Agents • High Voltage

6. Each position in the ship repair and maintenance 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 ship repair / maintenance industry.

8. The medical surveillance protocols are as follows:

Medical surveillance protocols: Ship Repair/ Maintenance

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roving Staff : supervisors/foreman/project managers	c	c	-	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Hot work: welders, cutters, burners, boilermakers, fire watchers, grinders, fire watch	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Grit blasters	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	-	-
Tank Work	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	?	-
Electrical engineers	c	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-
Mobile Machinery operators	c	c	-	c	c	-	c	-	-	-
Riggers	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Fitters (mechanics)	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Pipe fitters/plumbers	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Scaffolding erectors	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Painting	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Chipping/scraping	c	c	c	c	c	-	-	-	-	-
Chemist	c	c	-	c	c	c	-	-	-	-
General worker	c	c	c	c	c	-	c	-	-	-

9. Due regard should be given to the portability of positions. i.e multitasking and the exposure to additional hazards.

10. It is recommended that only appropriately qualified OHPs are used to certify workers fit for duty.
11. 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.
12. SAMSA strongly recommends that the above protocols are used by OHP's when conducting medical examinations.

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