
Crew Accommodation Guidance

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Notice provides guidance on the crew accommodation standards referenced in Marine Notice 39. This Information Notice is advisory in nature and does not introduce additional or retrospective compliance or certification requirements.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all ships fitted with crew accommodation.

3. Standards to be applied

- 3.1. The crew accommodation on ships to which the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC 2006) applies¹, that are constructed² **on or after 20 August 2013**, shall comply with Title 3 of MLC 2006.
- 3.2. The crew accommodation on ships to which the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 applies, that were constructed **before 20 August 2013**, shall comply with the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations 1978, as applicable and practicable. In assessing compliance, due regard shall be given to the standards applicable at the time of the ship's construction and to the non-retroactive application of accommodation requirements under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.
- 3.3. The crew accommodation on ships to which MLC 2006 is not applicable should comply with the Crew Accommodation Regulations to the extent practicable, if Title 3 of MLC 2006 is not applied.
- 3.4. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) will consider exemptions from the prescriptive requirements of MLC 2006 or the Crew Accommodation Regulations, as applicable, in cases where it is proper and reasonable to do so, taking into account the ship's trading

¹ Please refer to [Marine Notice 31](#)

² MLC 2006 refers to the date of the keel being laid or at a similar stage of construction. For uniformity, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) interprets "similar date of construction" as the date when: (i). Construction identifiable with a specific ship begins; and (ii). assembly of that ship has commenced comprising at least 50 tonnes or one per cent of the estimated mass of all structural material, whichever is less.

pattern, size and physical layout and the distinctive cultural, religious and social needs of the crew.

4. **Guidance on Marine Notice 39 Part 1**

4.1. ***Insulation***

4.1.1. All machinery casings and all boundary bulkheads of galleys and other spaces in which heat is produced should be adequately insulated where there is a possibility of resulting heat effects in adjoining accommodation or passageways.

4.1.2. Measures should also be taken to provide protection from heat effects of steam and/or hot water service pipes.

4.2. ***Materials***

4.2.1. Bulkhead surfaces and deckheads should be of material with a surface easily kept clean.

4.2.2. No form of construction likely to harbour vermin should be used.

4.2.3. The bulkhead surfaces and deckheads in sleeping rooms and mess rooms should be capable of being easily kept clean and light in colour with a durable, non-toxic finish.

4.2.4. The decks in all seafarer accommodation should be of approved material and construction and shall provide a non-slip surface impervious to damp and be easily kept clean.

4.2.5. Where the floorings are made of composite materials, the joints with the sides should be profiled to avoid crevices.

4.3. ***Lighting***

4.3.1. The standards of artificial lighting should be in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations, 1978, as amended, or an equivalent standard.

4.4. ***Ventilation and air conditioning systems***

4.4.1. The number of air changes per hour and volume of fresh air per minute required for each space should take into account Schedule 4 of the Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations, 1978, as amended, or an equivalent standard.

4.4.2. When air conditioning systems are fitted, the number of air changes per hour may be reduced - Regulation 16(2)(ii) and (iii) of the Crew Accommodation Regulations should be taken into account.

4.4.3. Air conditioning systems should be designed for the ship's intended area of operation. As a guide, air conditioning systems should be capable of maintaining a temperature of 29°C (dry bulb) with 50% relative humidity when the ambient (outside) conditions are 32°C (dry bulb) with 78% humidity.

4.5. **Heating**

4.5.1. Heating systems should be designed for the ship's intended area of operation. As a guide, heating systems should be capable of maintaining a temperature in the accommodation of 21°C when the ventilation system provided is working normally and the temperature of the ambient (outside) air is 1°C.

4.6. **Drainage**

4.6.1. Sanitary spaces and laundries should be served by one or more scuppers which do not serve any space other than sanitary accommodation or another laundry. The scuppers should be at least 50 millimetres in diameter and should be placed wherever water is likely to collect on the floor.

4.6.2. There should be no drainage into sanitary accommodation from any source outside that accommodation except other sanitary accommodation.

4.7. **Mess rooms**

4.7.1. Where separate mess room facilities are provided, separate mess rooms should be provided for:

- i. The master and officers; and
- ii. Petty officers and other seafarers.

4.7.2. The following should be provided, where practicable, at all times when seafarers are onboard:

- i. a conveniently located refrigerator of sufficient capacity for the number of persons using the mess room(s);
- ii. facilities for hot beverages and cool water;
- iii. where available pantries are not accessible to mess rooms, sufficient lockers for mess utensils and proper facilities for washing utensils should be provided;
- iv. mess utensils, including plates, cups and other mess utensils of material which is easily cleaned should be provided.

5. **Guidance on Marine Notice 39 Parts 2, 3 & 4**

5.1. ***Sleeping rooms***

- 5.1.1. An electric reading lamp should be installed at the head of each berth in seafarer's sleeping rooms.
- 5.1.2. Berths should be fitted with a comfortable mattress with a cushioning bottom or a combined cushioning mattress, including a spring bottom or a spring mattress. Mattress stuffing should be of a material not likely to attract or harbour vermin.
- 5.1.3. Mattresses and soft furnishings should be manufactured with fire retardant materials, or have a fire retardant finish.
- 5.1.4. Sleeping rooms should be fitted with curtains or equivalent for the sidelights, where fitted.
- 5.1.5. Sleeping rooms should be fitted with a mirror, small cabinets for toilet requisites, a book rack and a sufficient number of coat hooks.

6. **Queries**

- 6.1. Any queries on this Notice may be submitted to tech@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

