

Marine Notice No. 06 of 2012

Notice to all seafarers, maritime training establishments, shipping companies, ship owners, ship operators, shipmasters and all parties concerned.

Fitness for Duty – STCW 2010 (Manila) requirements

This Marine Notice should be read in conjunction with [Marine Notice No. 16 of 2010](#) and [Marine Notice No. 42 of 2011](#).

Ireland has notified the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that it is not in a position to be able to give effect to Regulation VIII/1 (Fitness for duty) of the Annex to the STCW Convention¹ and Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code before 1st January 2013.

Existing legislation² relating to hours of work and fitness for duty remains in force, along with the recording requirements, and, in most respects, the requirements for rest periods and rest hours are the same as the STCW 2010 regulations. Limits for blood alcohol level or alcohol in the breath have not yet been implemented in Irish legislation.

Masters, officers, seafarers and ship managers should be able to show – under the concept of ‘no more favourable treatment’ – that they have complied with the requirements of STCW 2010 when entering a port in a State which has ratified and implemented those requirements in its national legislation. Seafarers and ship managers should ensure that the blood alcohol limits and alcohol in the breath limits are complied with at all times as these may be tested whilst the ship is in a foreign port.

On Irish-flagged ships the minimum rest periods for all seafarers are:

- ***A minimum of 10 hours in any 24 hour period, and***
- ***77 hours in any 7 day period.***

The hours of rest may be divided into not more than two periods, one of which shall be at least 6 hours in length and the intervals between consecutive periods of rest shall not exceed 14 hours.

Ctd./...

¹ International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.

² European Communities (Merchant Shipping)(Organisation of Working Time) Regulations 2003 [S.I. No. 532 of 2003].

The limits of alcohol in STCW 2010 are not greater than 0.05% blood alcohol level or 0.25mg/l alcohol in the breath for masters, officers and other seafarers while performing designated safety, security and marine environmental duties. Companies should implement a written policy of drug and alcohol abuse prevention in the safety management system of the company and its vessels incorporating these limits.

It should be noted that the law regarding the control of the consumption of alcohol, and the prohibition on operating vessels while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, is provided in Sections 28-32 of the Maritime Safety Act 2005 (No. 11 of 2005).

Director General,
Maritime Safety Directorate,
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20/02/2012

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