



Standard Guide for Basic Elements of Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Program¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers the basic elements of a Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Program (SOHSP). These elements are applicable to all vessel types including but not limited to tank vessels, dry bulk carriers, passenger vessels, roll-on roll-off vessels, ore bulk oilers, offshore supply vessels, tugboats, towboats, and barges. The elements described are fundamental pieces of a systematic occupational safety and health program and may be used by company line managers, health and safety personnel or consultants who are implementing, improving, or auditing the effectiveness of a shipboard health and safety program.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ANSI Standards:²

- ANSI Z4.1-1986 Minimum Requirements for Sanitation in Places of Employment
- ANSI Z41-1991 Personal Protection – Protective Footwear
- ANSI Z87.1-1989 Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection
- ANSI Z88.2-1992 Respiratory Protection
- ANSI Z89.1-1986 Protective Headwear for Industrial Workers
- ANSI Z244.1-1982 (R1993) Safety Requirements for the Lock Out/Tag Out of Energy Sources
- ANSI/ASA S3.18-1979 (R1993): Guide for the Evaluation of Human Exposure to Whole Body Vibration
- ANSI/ASA S3.44-1996 Determination of Occupational

Noise Exposure and Estimation of Noise-Induced Hearing Impairment

ANSI/AWS Z49.1-1994 Safety in Welding, Cutting and Allied Processes

2.2 Other Documents:

- NFPA 306-1997 Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels³
- NFPA 1991-2000: Vapor Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies³
- NFPA 1992-2000: Liquid Splash Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies³
- IMO A.468(XII) Code on Noise Levels Onboard Ships⁴
- IMO A.849 (20) Code for Investigation of Marine Casualties and Incidents⁴
- IMO A.864 (20) Recommendations for Entering Enclosed Spaces Aboard Ships⁴
- 46 CFR 16.210 Pre-employment Testing Requirements⁵
- U.S. Coast Guard Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 2-98 Physical Evaluation Guidelines for Merchant Mariner's Documents and Licenses⁵

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This guide does not set specific performance or technical criteria, but recommends that companies set policies and objectives and develop procedures for managing their health and safety program. Companies should consider their unique organization, culture, and hazards on their vessels and the possible effects of their operations. The elements are intentionally flexible and may be tailored to address any size of operation or any vessel type. Note that although the standard is aimed at the shipboard occupational health and safety program, some of the elements address activities and commitments that must be completed or made by shore side personnel (for example, executive management commitment and provision of adequate resources). Key to the effectiveness of the program is the implementation of each element within an interconnected system.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F25 on Ships and Marine Technology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F25.07 on General Requirements.

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² Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

³ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

⁴ Available from International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 75R, United Kingdom.

⁵ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.