

	<b>Fitness for Duty and Watchkeeping Directive 2012</b>	Directive 004 - 2012
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The Director of the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7, sub-section (3) of the Merchant Shipping Act 2006, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, makes the following Directive.

**1 Citation and commencement.**

This Directive may be cited as the Fitness for Duty and Watchkeeping Directive 2012 and shall come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

**2 Revocation.**

Directive 04-2002 (Drug and Alcohol Abuse) Directive is revoked and replaced in its entirety by this Directive.

**3 Purpose.**

- (i). Chapter VIII of the Code to the STCW Convention 1978, as amended, was further amended in 2010 and as a result the requirements regarding Fitness for Duty have been slightly changed. In addition it is concluded that some of the Principles regarding Watchkeeping that were previously set out in a Circular should be restated in a Directive given their importance.
- (ii). The intent of this Directive is to establish the measures that are required for Antigua and Barbuda ships.

**4 Application.**

This Directive applies to vessels of all types, including pleasure craft, which are:

- (i). Antigua and Barbuda ships wherever they may be operating, and
- (ii). All other ships operating in Antigua and Barbuda waters.

**5 Maximum allowable levels of alcohol.**

- (i). No seafarer shall take up his duties on board, whether watchkeeping or other duties, if he has consumed alcohol during the four hours prior to taking up those duties,

- (ii). No seafarer shall have a blood alcohol level greater than 0.05%, or 0.25 mg/l alcohol in breath, or a quantity of alcohol leading to such an alcohol concentration, while performing designated safety, security and marine environmental duties,
- (iii). No seafarer may use, ingest, inject, smoke, possess, sell, or otherwise have any dealings with any illegal drugs at any time and
- (iv). No seafarer may induce any other person to use illegal drugs in any form at any time.

## **6 Watchkeeping Arrangements.**

- (i). Every Antigua and Barbuda ship which is a commercial ship shall ensure that there is at all times during the hours of darkness, a lookout positioned on the bridge to assist the officer of the watch and that lookout shall:
  - (a) In all ships, be able to give full attention to the keeping of a proper lookout and have no other duties which could interfere with that task except that in small ships where an unobstructed all-round view is provided at the steering position and where there is no impairment of night vision or other impediment to the keeping of a proper lookout the lookout may also be the helmsman.
  - (b) In ships of 500 GT or more, be qualified and certificated to the level in Section A.II/4 of the STCW Convention
- (ii). During the hours of daylight, and subject to the Master's discretion after considering the factors set out in Section A-VIII/2 Part 4.1 of the STCW Convention, the officer of the watch may be the sole lookout in addition to his watchkeeping duties.

## **7 Principles of Watchkeeping,**

- (i). The Master of every Antigua and Barbuda ship shall ensure that each voyage is effectively planned in accordance with the requirements in Section A-VIII/2 Part 2 of the STCW Convention.
- (ii). The master of every Antigua and Barbuda ship shall ensure that each bridge watchkeeping officer is familiar with and follows the principles to be observed in keeping a navigational watch set out in Section A-VIII/2 Part 4.1 of the STCW Convention.
- (iii). The Chief Engineer of every Antigua and Barbuda ship shall ensure that each engineering watchkeeping officer is familiar with and follows the principles to be observed in keeping an engineering watch set out in Section A-VIII/2 Part 4-2 of the STCW Convention.

## **8 Penalties.**

- (i). Any seafarer who contravenes the requirements of regulation 5 of this Directive commits an offence in accordance with Section 280 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2006 and shall be liable on conviction for the penalties set out in that section.

- (ii). Any certificated officer who is shown to have contravened regulation 5 of this directive may, in addition, have his Antigua and Barbuda endorsement recognising his certificate of competency withdrawn and any other seafarer who is shown to have contravened regulation 5 may have his seafarer's book withdrawn.
  
- (iii). In any case where the endorsement of an officer is withdrawn in accordance with subparagraph (ii) the director of ADOMS may inform the state that issued the officer's certificate of competency of the fact of withdrawal.

August 2012

Signed by the authority of the Director of the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping