

Uniform Shipping Laws Code 2008

**Section 6: Crew Accommodation
(CTH, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC & WA)**

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Canberra, copies of which can be obtained from the National Marine Safety Committee.

SECTION 6

CREW ACCOMMODATION

1. This Section shall be read in conjunction with the Introduction, Definitions and General Requirements Section.
2. In this Section *crew accommodation* means the accommodation to be provided for the Master, Crew and Special Personnel.
3. **Application**
 - 3.1 Part 1 applies to Class 1, 2 and 3 vessels of 25 metres and over but less than 55 metres in length. Part 2 applies to Class 1, 2 and 3 vessels less than 25 metres in length.
 - 3.2 Vessels of 55 metres in length and over shall comply with Marine Orders Part 14 - Accommodation.
 - 3.3 Parts 1 and 2 do not apply to vessels which are normally engaged on voyages of less than 36 hours, or where the crew is not required to reside on board.
 - 3.4 The requirements of Parts 1 and 2 may be varied in the case of any vessel if the authority is satisfied, after consultation with the vessel's owners, that the variations provide corresponding advantages as a result of which the overall conditions are no less favourable than those which would result from the full application of the provisions of the Section.
 - 3.5 The Authority, if satisfied that it is impractical for a vessel to comply with any provisions of Part 1 or Part 2, may exempt that vessel from compliance with such requirement to the extent specified and subject to such conditions as the Authority thinks fit. The Authority shall provide the owner of the vessel with an Exemption Certificate, to be carried on board the vessel, showing all such requirements from which the vessel has been exempted, and specifying the extent of the exemption, and specifying the conditions to which the exemption is subject.

PART 1 - Crew Accommodation - Vessels of 25 metres and over

(Amendment dated 4 March 1997)

4. **General**
 - 4.1 The location, means of access, structure and arrangement of crew accommodation in relation to other spaces shall be such as to ensure adequate security and protection against weather, sea and undue noise.
 - 4.2 There shall be no direct openings into sleeping rooms from fish or cargo holds and spaces, from machinery spaces, from galleys, lamp and paint rooms or from engine, deck and other bulk store rooms, drying rooms, communal wash places or water closet spaces. That part of the bulkhead separating such places from sleeping rooms and external bulkheads shall be constructed of approved material and shall be watertight and gastight.
 - 4.3 External bulkheads of sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be adequately insulated. All machinery casings and all boundary bulkheads of galleys and other spaces in which heat is produced shall be adequately insulated where there is a possibility of resulting heat effects in adjoining accommodation or passageways. Protection shall be provided from heat effects of steam and/or hot-water service pipes.
 - 4.4 Internal bulkheads shall be of material which is not likely to harbour vermin.
 - 4.5 Sleeping rooms, mess rooms, recreation rooms and passageways in the crew accommodation space shall be insulated to prevent condensation or over-heating.
 - 4.6 Main steam and exhaust pipes for winches and similar gear shall, whenever practicable, not pass through crew accommodation or through passageways leading to crew accommodation; where they do pass through such accommodation or passageways they shall be adequately insulated.
 - 4.7 Inside panelling or sheeting shall be of material with a surface easily kept clean. Tongued and grooved boarding or any other form of construction likely to harbour vermin shall not be used.
 - 4.8 The wall surface and deckheads in sleeping rooms and mess rooms shall be easily kept clean and, if painted, shall be light in colour; lime wash must not be used.

- 4.9 The decks in all crew accommodation shall be of approved materials and construction and shall provide a surface impervious to damp and easily kept clean.
- 4.10 Exposed decks over crew accommodation shall be sheathed with wood or have equivalent insulation.
- 4.11 Where the floorings are of composition, the joinings with the sides shall be rounded to avoid crevices.
- 4.12 Sufficient drainage shall be provided.
- 4.13 All practical measures shall be taken to protect crew accommodation spaces against the admission of flies and other insects.

5. Ventilation

- 5.1 Crew accommodation spaces shall be adequately ventilated.
- 5.2 Vessels regularly engaged on voyages in the tropics and other areas with similar climatic conditions, shall be equipped both with mechanical means of ventilation and with electric fans. Provided that one only of these means may be required in spaces where this ensures satisfactory ventilation.
- 5.3 Power for the operation of the aids to ventilation required by sub-clause 5.2 shall, when practicable, be available at all times when the crew is living or working on board and conditions so require.

6. Heating

- 6.1 An adequate system of heating the crew accommodation shall be provided as required by climatic conditions.
- 6.2 The heating system shall, when practicable, be in operation at all times when the crew is living or working on board and conditions so require.
- 6.3 Heating by means of open fires shall be prohibited. Heaters, if used, shall be in a fixed position and so constructed as to reduce fire risks to a minimum. No such heater shall be fitted with a heating medium which is so exposed that clothing, curtains or other flammable materials can be scorched or set on fire by heat from the heater.
- 6.4 The heating system shall be capable of providing a temperature in crew accommodation at a satisfactory level under normal conditions of weather and climate likely to be met with on service.

7. Lighting

- 7.1 All crew spaces shall be adequately lit. The minimum standard for natural lighting in living rooms shall be such as to permit a person with normal vision to read on a clear day an ordinary newspaper in any part of the space available for free movement. When it is not possible to provide adequate natural lighting, artificial lighting of the above minimum standard shall be provided.
- 7.2 In all vessels electric lights shall, as far as practicable, be provided in the crew accommodation.
- 7.3 An adequate reading light shall be provided for every berth in addition to the normal lighting.

8. Free Movement Areas

- 8.1 The clear head room in areas of free movement shall, wherever possible be not less than 1.9 metres.

9. Sleeping Rooms

- 9.1 Sleeping rooms shall in no case be forward of the collision bulkhead.
- 9.2 The floor area per person of sleeping rooms, excluding the space occupied by berths and fixed furniture shall not be less than:

Vessel Length in metres-	Area in square metres-
25 and over but less than 30	0.8
30 and over but less than 35	0.9
35 and over	1.0

- 9.3 The number of persons allowed to occupy any sleeping room shall not exceed six.
- 9.4 The maximum number of persons allowed to occupy any sleeping room shall be legibly and indelibly marked in some place in the room where it can conveniently be seen.
- 9.5 Each member of the crew shall be provided with an individual berth.

- 9.6 Berths shall not be placed side by side in such a way that access to one berth can be obtained only over another.
- 9.7 Berths shall not be arranged in tiers of more than two.
- 9.8 The lower berth in a double tier shall not be less than 0.3m above the deck, the berth shall be placed approximately midway between the bottom of the lower berth and the lower side of the deckhead beams.
- 9.9 The minimum inside dimensions of a berth shall wherever practicable be 1.9 metres by 0.68 metres.
- 9.10 If tubular frames are used for the construction of berths, they shall be completely sealed and without perforations which would give access to vermin.
- 9.11 Each berth shall be fitted with a mattress.
- 9.12 When one berth is placed over another a dustproof base shall be fitted beneath the upper berth.
- 9.13 Each occupant shall be provided with a clothes locker fitted with a suitable locking device and a rod for holding clothes on hangers, and a drawer or equivalent space which shall be not less than 0.06 cubic metre.
- 9.14 Any furniture and fittings shall be of smooth, hard material not liable to warp or corrode, or to harbour vermin.
- 9.15 Sidelights in sleeping rooms shall be fitted with means of excluding light.
- 9.16 Each sleeping room shall be fitted with a mirror.
- 9.17 Wherever possible, a separate room should be provided for a member of the crew who suffers from illness or injury.

10. Mess Rooms

- 10.1 Mess room accommodation separate from sleeping quarters shall be provided in all vessels carrying a crew of more than ten persons. Wherever possible it should be provided also in vessels carrying a smaller crew.
- 10.2 The dimensions of each mess room, where provided, shall be sufficient for the number of persons likely to use it at any one time.
- 10.3 Mess rooms shall be equipped with table(s) and seats sufficient for the number of persons likely to use them at any one time.
- 10.4 Mess rooms shall be as close as practicable to the galley.
- 10.5 Adequate lockers for mess utensils and proper facilities for washing utensils shall be provided.
- 10.6 The tops of tables and seats shall be of dampresisting material, without cracks and easily kept clean.

11. Galley

- 11.1 Satisfactory cooking equipment shall be provided on board and shall, wherever practicable, be fitted in a separate galley.
- 11.2 The galley shall be of adequate dimensions for the purpose and shall be well lighted and ventilated.
- 11.3 The galley shall be equipped with cooking utensils, the necessary number of cupboards and shelves, and sinks and dish racks of rust-proof material and with satisfactory drainage. Where hot water is not supplied to the galley, an apparatus for heating water shall be provided.
- 11.4 Facilities shall be provided for the preparation of hot drinks for the crew at all times.
- 11.5 A cupboard, locker or storeroom of adequate capacity for messing provisions which can be kept dry, and well ventilated to avoid deterioration of stores shall be provided. Where necessary, refrigerators or other low-temperature storage space shall also be provided.

12. Sanitation

- 12.1 Sufficient sanitary accommodation, including washing facilities shall be provided.
- 12.2 Sanitary facilities for all members of the crew who do not occupy rooms to which private facilities are attached shall, wherever practicable, be provided on the following scale:
 - (a) one shower for every eight persons or less;

- (b) one water closet for every eight persons or less; and
 - (c) one wash basin for every six persons or less.
- 12.3 Cold fresh water and hot fresh water or means of heating water shall be available in all wash places.
- 12.4 Wash basins and shower recesses shall be of adequate size and constructed of material with a smooth surface not liable to crack, flake or corrode.
- 12.5 All water closet spaces shall have independent ventilation to the open air.
- 12.6 The sanitary equipment to be placed in water closet spaces shall be provided with ample flush of water, available at all times and independently controllable.
- 12.7 Soil pipes and waste pipes shall be of adequate dimensions and shall be so constructed as to minimise the risk of obstruction and to facilitate cleaning. They shall not pass through fresh water or drinking water tanks; neither shall they, if practicable, pass overhead in mess rooms or sleeping accommodation.
- 12.8 Sanitary accommodation shall comply with the following requirements:
- 12.8.1 floors shall be of material that is easily cleaned and impervious to damp, and shall be properly drained;
 - 12.8.2 bulkheads shall be watertight up to at least 200 mm above the level of the deck;
 - 12.8.3 water closet spaces shall not have direct access to spaces where food is stored, prepared or consumed;
 - 12.8.4 water closet spaces shall be situated convenient to but separate from sleeping rooms and shall if practicable be separate from washrooms; and
 - 12.8.5 where there is more than one water closet in a compartment, they shall be sufficiently screened to ensure privacy.
- 12.9 Facilities for washing and drying clothes shall be provided on a scale appropriate to the number of crew and the normal duration of the voyage.
- 12.10 The facilities for washing clothes shall include suitable sinks equipped with drainage which may be installed in washrooms if separate laundry accommodation is not reasonably practicable. The sinks shall be provided with an adequate supply of cold fresh water and hot fresh water or means of heating water.
- 12.11 Where practicable the facilities for drying clothes may be provided in an adequately ventilated compartment separate from sleeping quarters, mess rooms and water closet spaces.
- 13. Miscellaneous**
- 13.1 Sufficient and adequately ventilated accommodation for the hanging of oilskins shall be provided outside, but convenient to the sleeping rooms.
 - 13.2 Crew accommodation shall be maintained in a clean and habitable condition and shall be kept free of goods and stores which are not the personal property of the occupants.

PART 2 - Crew Accommodation - Vessels of less than 25 metres

14. General

- 14.1 All vessels where the crew sleep on board, or where the crew live on board, shall be fitted with approved crew accommodation.
- 14.2 Accommodation on new vessels and replacement vessels, and new accommodation installed on existing vessels, shall comply with all the following minimum requirements.
- 14.3 For existing accommodation the requirements are at the discretion of the authority.
- 14.4 The location, structure and arrangement of the crew accommodation shall be such as to ensure security, protection against the weather and sea, and insulation from heat, cold and noise.
- 14.5 The structure shall be permanent and rigid and shall comply with the relevant structural requirements of Section 5 of the USL Code or equivalent.
- 14.6 All internal surfaces shall be of a material that is easily kept clean, hygienic, and is impervious to damp.

14.7 Unless otherwise approved by the Administration, the clear head room in areas of free movement throughout the crew accommodation spaces shall be not less than 1.9 metres provided that this may be reduced at the sides to allow for camber, ducting or piping.

15. Lighting and Ventilation

15.1 Crew accommodation spaces shall be provided with adequate mechanical or natural ventilation to ensure sufficient air changes for a comfortable living environment and shall be lit so as to permit a person with normal vision to read in that space.

16. Access and Egress

16.1 Wherever practical, there shall be no direct access into sleeping rooms from machinery spaces.

16.2 Ready access shall be provided and the minimum clear head room in way of the access ladder or stairway shall not be less than 1.9 metres provided that this may be reduced at the sides to allow for camber, ducting or piping.

16.3 If the sleeping room is located on other than the main deck, then an inclined ladder or stairway complying with AS 1037/1983 or Section 5.E.6.4 of the USL Code shall be fitted.

16.4 Wherever practical on existing vessels, and on every new vessel, access to sleeping rooms shall be through a doorway.

16.5 If access to a sleeping room is through a deck opening, then the clear opening through the deck shall be at least 650 mm x 750 mm.

16.6 Where a hazard (such as a galley area) is located between the sleeping room and the open deck, an emergency escape must be provided. Where egress from a sleeping room to the deck is more than 5 metres, an alternate escape route is to be provided.

17. Sleeping Rooms

17.1 Each crew member shall be provided with an individual bunk, the minimum effective inside dimensions of which shall be 1.9 metres by 0.68 metres (0.60 metres in existing vessels).

17.2 Each bunk shall be fitted with a mattress of a type which will not attract pests or insects.

17.3 The clearance above each bunk shall be not less than 600mm (500mm in existing vessels).

17.4 The lowest bunk shall not be less than 300mm above the deck or floor.

17.5 Bunks shall not be placed side by side in such a way that access to one bunk can only be obtained over another bunk.

17.6 When one bunk is placed over another, a dustproof base of wood or other suitable material shall be fitted to the upper bunk.

17.7 The minimum clear deck space between bunks shall not be less than 600 mm.

17.8 Each crew member shall be provided with adequate storage space in the sleeping room in the form of a locker for the storage of personal items and clothes.

18. Toilet facilities

18.1 All vessels shall be provided with toilets, wash basins and showers as follows:

18.2 One flush toilet for every 8 persons or less (13 persons or less in existing vessels).

18.3 One shower with hot and cold fresh water for every 8 persons or less (13 persons or less in existing vessels).

18.4 One wash basin with hot and cold fresh water for every 8 persons or less (13 persons or less in existing vessels).

18.5 The location and construction of these facilities shall provide privacy to the users.

18.6 The toilet space shall be vented to atmosphere.

19. Messing facilities

19.1 Each vessel shall be provided with adequate table and seating arrangements for the number of persons likely to use them at any one time.

19.2 Adequate facilities shall be provided for the hygienic storage and preparation of food and drinks and for the proper disposal of waste.

20. Washing facilities

20.1 Facilities shall be provided for washing and drying clothes, commensurate with the time the vessel shall remain at sea.

(Amendment dated 4 March 1997)