

**Australian Transport Advisory Council**

**Uniform Shipping Laws Code**

**Section 5: Construction**

**Sub-Section E: Passengers, Passenger Accommodation,  
Guard Rails and Bulwarks**

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**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**  
**ORDER UNDER SECTION 427 OF NAVIGATION ACT 1912**

I, PAUL BARCROFT ECCLES, delegate of the Minister for Transport and Communications, pursuant to section 427 of the Navigation Act 1912, hereby declare that the provisions annexed to this order are the provisions of Section 5, Sub-section E of the Uniform Shipping Laws Code as in existence on the date of this Order.

Dated this 4th day of September 1989.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. B. Eccles', written over a horizontal line.

**P. B. ECCLES**  
**FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
**MARITIME OPERATIONS DIVISION**

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**Part I—Permitted number of passengers**

**E.1 Class 1 A, B and C vessels of 35 metres in length and over operating outside sheltered waters—permitted number of passengers.**

E.1.1 A Class 1 A, B or C vessel of 35 metres in length and over operating outside sheltered waters, shall be provided with accommodation in accordance with Part II for the number of passengers appropriate to the sub-division of the vessel determined in accordance with Sub-section C. In no case should the area available for passengers be less than 0.85 square metres per passenger.

**E.2 Class 1 vessels of less than 35 metres in length—permitted number of passengers.**

E.2.1 The maximum number of passengers permitted on a vessel shall:

- (i) In the case of Class 1A, Class 1B and Class 1C vessels, be the number which can be accommodated on the clear deck area available for passengers, allowing not less than 0.85 square metres of clear deck area for each passenger.
- (ii) In the case of Class 1D and Class 1E vessels, be the number which can be accommodated on the clear deck area available for passengers, allowing not less than 0.55 square metres of clear deck area for each passenger for main deck spaces and 0.85 square metres for each passenger for spaces other than main deck spaces.
- (iii) In the case of Class 1E vessels the Authority may permit a reduction to 0.4 square metres of clear deck area for each passenger for main deck spaces.

E.2.2 Clear deck area shall be that remaining after that occupied by all encumbrances such as hatchways, skylights, companionways, machinery casings, pillars, masts, ventilators, navigating space, life-saving appliances and space appropriated for deck cargo etc, have been deducted. When fixed seating is fitted at the perimeter of the space, the measurements should be taken from the back of the seats.

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E.2.3 In computing the clear deck area available for passengers as prescribed in E.2.2, those areas occupied by the following shall also be deducted:

- (i) Interior passageways of less than 750 mm in unobstructed width.
- (ii) Passageways on the open deck of less than 450 mm in unobstructed width.
- (iii) Passageways between deckhouses and bulwarks or rails of less than 750 mm unobstructed width.
- (iv) Toilets and washrooms.
- (v) Such other spaces which the Authority may consider unsuitable for passengers.

In determining the unobstructed width of a passageway, the measurement shall be taken from the edge of any seating which may be fitted.

E.2.4 Notwithstanding the number of passengers permitted in sub-clause E.2.1, the number may be further limited by stability or sub-division considerations, or such other considerations as deemed necessary by the Authority.

### Part II—Passenger Accommodation

#### E.3 Seating Accommodation

E.3.1 Seating accommodation shall be provided for every passenger permitted on a vessel engaged in voyages of thirty minutes duration or more. When continuous fixed seating is installed 475 mm of seating shall be allowed for each person.

On voyages of from 15 to less than 30 minutes duration seating shall be provided for not less than 75 per cent of the certified number of passengers. On voyages of less than 15 minutes duration 40 per cent seating shall be provided.

E.3.2 Fixed seats shall be so installed as to provide for ready escape. The seats shall be arranged in the following manner:

- (i) Passageways of 4.5 metres length and under shall be not less than 600 mm wide.
- (ii) Passageways over 4.5 metres in length shall be not less than 750 mm wide.
- (iii) Where the seats are in rows the distance from seat front to seat front shall not be less than 750 mm when they face the one way.
- (iv) In general, portable or temporary seats shall be arranged as specified for fixed seating.

The Authority may give special consideration to the arrangement of seats in cases where it can be shown that escape from the space where the seats are located can be made readily through windows or other openings in way of the seats.

E.3.3 Seats shall not be installed in areas between deckhouses or superstructures and bulwarks or rails or in internal closed passageways where the width of the space is less than 1 metre.

#### E.4 Enclosed Accommodation Space

E.4.1 The number of passengers permitted in cabins and compartments fitted with either fixed berths or sofas constructed for sleeping berths shall be determined by the number of berths, provided that there is at least 1 square metre of free movement for each passenger.

E.4.2 Berths shall:

- (i) be in not more than two tiers having a vertical separation of not less than 650 mm,
- (ii) have a minimum length of 1.9 metres and a minimum width of 600 mm, and
- (iii) be so constructed and arranged as to allow free and ready access thereto.

E.4.3 Headroom in cabin and lounge areas shall be not less than 1.9 metres, provided that this may be reduced at the sides of the areas to allow for camber, ducting or piping.

E.4.4 Passageways leading to exits shall have not less than 1.9 metres clear headroom and 750 mm clear width.

#### E.5 Exit Door Facings

E.5.1 All doors in passageways and spaces where passengers may congregate, except doors on exits, shall have smooth facings on the passageway or space interior side. The exit doors shall have rough, corrugated or similar facing, or suitable embossed facing, so that they may be readily distinguished by touch from all other doors in the passageways in the event of the passageways being in complete darkness. A notice explaining the purpose of the differing surface shall be painted or posted on or adjacent to the exit doors. The Authority may waive this requirement where it considers it to be unnecessary on small vessels.

**E.6 Stairways and Ladders**

E.6.1 Stairways and ladders shall be provided in sufficient size and number on a vessel as to provide ready access from one deck to another and, in particular, to the lifeboat and/or liferaft embarkation decks. Where the distance from the top of the coaming to the ceiling of any space to which access is required for the operating of the vessel is greater than 1.2m, a ladder shall be provided. The stairways and ladders shall be effectively distributed and arranged so as to avoid congestion in any part of a vessel.

- E.6.2 (i) Stairways constructed in accordance with sub-clause E.6.3 shall be installed to provide ready access to decks or compartments accommodating more than 12 passengers.
- (ii) Ladderways constructed in accordance with sub-clause E.6.4 may be installed to provide ready access to decks or compartments accommodating 12 passengers or less.

E.6.3 Stairways shall:

- (i) have widths, measured between the inside edge of handrails or obstructions, determined from the following table—

<i>Number of Passengers Accommodated in the compartment</i>		<i>Minimum Width (mm)</i>
<i>Exceeding</i>	<i>Not Exceeding</i>	
		600
	12	650
12	25	750
25	100	1000
100	125	1250
125	150	1500
150	175	1750
175	200	

*Note:*

Where the number of passengers in any one compartment exceeds 200 then the minimum width shall be 1750 mm plus 25 mm for every 25 passengers or part thereof in excess of 200.

- (ii) be provided with handrails fixed at a vertical height of not less than 850 mm above the nosing of the treads, and fitted so there is no obstruction on or above the handrails that would tend to break a hand hold. Provided that in the case of stairway serving a step or break not exceeding 1 metre in height, handrails may be omitted provided suitable hand holds are provided.
- (iii) be fitted with a centre line dividing rail where the width is 1500 mm or more.
- (iv) have a clear vertical height above the nosing of the treads of not less than 1.9 metres.
- (v) have a rise of not less than 200 mm and not more than 225 mm.
- (vi) have a going of not less than 150 mm.
- (vii) have an angle to the vertical of not less than 45° when the number of passengers exceeds 200 and 37° when that number is 200 or less.
- (viii) in seagoing vessels, as far as possible, be aligned forward and aft and not athwartships.
- (ix) be well lighted by day and night.
- (x) have a non slip surface on the tread.

E.6.4 Ladderways where permitted to be fitted by sub-clause E.6.2 (ii), shall:

- (i) have a width measured between the inside edges of handrails or obstructions of not less than 600 mm.
- (ii) be provided with suitable handholds.

- (iii) have a rise of not less than 200 mm and not more than 250 mm.
- (iv) have a going of not less than 100 mm.
- (v) have an angle to the vertical of not less than 22°.
- (vi) in seagoing vessels, as far as possible, be aligned forward and aft and not athwartships.
- (vii) be well lighted by day and night.
- (viii) have a non slip surface on the tread.

#### **E.7 Toilet Facilities**

E.7.1 Vessels, except vessels operating on short runs of approximately fifteen minutes or less duration, shall be provided with toilet facilities in accordance with the following scale:

(a) Unberthed Passengers

Up to 50 passengers—1 w.c., 1 hand basin

51 to 100 passengers—2 w.c.'s, 2 hand basins

For each additional 100 passengers or part thereof—1 w.c. or 1 urinal, 1 hand basin,

(b) Berthed Passengers

The number of w.c.'s, hand basins and showers shall be obtained by dividing the total number of passengers by 5. If the remainder exceeds 2 then the number should be increased by one.

E.7.2 Where more than 1 w.c. is provided a proportion of the w.c.'s must be set apart for use by women only and be so marked outside. The entrances to w.c.'s for men and women shall be so arranged as to permit unobstructed access and to ensure privacy. The spaces in which w.c.'s are contained shall be large enough for their purpose, have interior linings that are easily kept clean, be well lighted, ventilated and drained to atmosphere or overboard and effectively protected from weather and sea.

E.7.3 Cold freshwater, and for vessels with berthed passengers, hot fresh water or means of heating water, shall be available in all wash places.

E.7.4 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.

E.7.5 All water closet spaces shall have independent ventilation to open air.

E.7.6 The sanitary equipment to be placed in water closet spaces shall be provided with ample flush of water, available at all times and independently controlled.

E.7.7 Soil pipes and waste pipes shall be of adequate dimensions and shall be so constructed as to minimise the risk of obstruction and 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.

E.7.8 Sanitary accommodation shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) Floors shall be of material easily cleaned and impervious to damp, and shall be properly drained;
- (b) Bulkheads shall be watertight up to at least 200 mm above the level of the deck covering;
- (c) Watercloset spaces shall not have direct access to spaces where food is stored, prepared or consumed;
- (d) Watercloset spaces shall be situated conveniently to but separate from sleeping rooms and shall if practicable be separate from washrooms;
- (e) Where there is more than one water closet in a compartment, they shall be sufficiently screened to ensure privacy.

### **Part III—Guard Rails and Bulwarks**

#### **E.8 Guard Rails and Bulwarks on Vessels Subject to the Provisions of the Load Lines Section**

E.8.1 Class 1 and Class 2 vessels subject to the provisions of the Load Lines Section shall be provided with the guard rails and bulwarks required by that Section and with such additional guard rails, bulwarks and other protection as may be required by this Part.

**E.9 Guard Rails and Bulwarks on Vessels not Subject to the Provisions of the Load Lines Section**

E.9.1 Class 1 and Class 2 vessels not subject to the provisions of the Load Lines Section and Class 3 vessels shall be provided with guard rails, bulwarks, and other protection as required by this Part.

**E.10 Requirements for Fixed Guard Rails and Bulwarks**

E.10.1 Bulwarks and/or fixed guard rails shall be provided near the periphery of every exposed deck to which any persons or vehicles may have access.

E.10.2 Bulwarks and guard rails together with supporting stanchions shall be designed, constructed and so placed as to prevent any person or vehicle accidentally falling from the deck on which the bulwarks or guard rails are installed.

E.10.3 For the various classes of vessels, the height above deck and in the case of open boats above the floor, of guard rails or bulwarks or a combination of both, or cockpit coamings, shall not be less than as follows:

<i>Class of Vessel</i>	<i>Length of vessel (m)</i>	<i>Minimum height of rail or bulwark (mm)</i>
Class 1	20 and over	1 000
Class 1	16 and over but less than 20	850
Class 1	10 and over but less than 16	750
Class 2	24 and over	1 000
Class 2	16 and over but less than 24	850
Class 2	10 and over but less than 16	750
Class 3	24 and over	850
Class 3	16 and over but less than 24	750
Class 3	10 and over but less than 16	700
Sailing	24 and over	750
Sailing	20 and over but less than 24	700
Sailing	10 and over but less than 20	600

**Notes:**

- (a) In Class 3 vessels the height of guard rails or bulwarks in the working area may be reduced, but in no case should it be less than 500 mm.
- (b) In vessels of less than 10 metres in length the height of guard rails or bulwarks may be specially considered by the Authority.
- (c) Where because of special circumstances the fitting of guard rails or bulwarks is not practical the omission of such rails or bulwarks may be considered provided suitable grab rails together with provision for safe footing are provided.
- (d) In this clause sailing vessels shall mean any vessel which is primarily intended for use under sail.

E.10.4 On all Class 1 vessels the openings between the guard rails shall not exceed 230 millimetres unless all or part of the space below the upper rail course is fitted with strong wire mesh or equivalent.

E.10.5 On all Class 2 and Class 3 vessels the opening below the lowest course of the guard rails shall not exceed 230 millimetres and the other courses shall not be more than 380 millimetres apart.

E.10.6 Where it can be shown that bulwarks or fixed guard rails of the height required by E.10.3 would interfere with the normal working of the vessel, they may be omitted entirely, provided suitable portable rails, chains, wire ropes, or equivalent of the required height are provided.



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E.10.7 A stern trawler shall be provided with doors, gates or other suitable protective arrangements at the top of the stern ramp at the same height as the adjacent bulwarks. Where fish flaps are fitted on a stern trawler they shall be flush, watertight, power-operated and capable of being closed from an adjacent position on the deck. When the doors at the top of a stern ramp are open, a chain or other means of protection shall be provided for fitting a guard across the ramp.

E.10.8 When the principal business of a vessel requires the discharge of personnel in a seaway, the peripheral rails may be wholly or partially omitted. Where such rails are omitted, centre rails or suitable hand grabs shall be substituted.

E.10.9 Suitable storm rails or hand grabs shall be installed where required by the Authority in all passageways, at deckhouse sides, and at ladders and hatches where passengers or crew might have normal access.

E.10.10 All exposed and hazardous places, e.g. where gears and machinery, etc. are located, shall be effectively protected by suitable covers, guards or rails.

**E.11 Vessels Carrying Vehicles**

E.11.1 On vessels carrying vehicles suitable chains, cable, or other barriers shall be installed at the end of the vehicle deck.

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