

**Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland**  
**Unofficial translation; legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish**

**No. 825/2012**

**Government Decree on the Living Environment for Seafarers on Board Ships**  
(13.12.2012/825, amendments up to 467/2013 included)

The following is enacted in accordance with the decision of the Government under sections 11 and 13 of the Act on the Working and Living Environment and Catering for Seafarers on Board Ships (395/2012):

**Section 1**

**Scope of application**

This Decree applies to Finnish ships. This Decree does not apply to:

- 1) state vessels used for defence and coast guard operations;
- 2) hydrofoils, hovercraft and historic ships;
- 3) fishing ships with the maximum length less than 24 metres;
- 4) pleasure vessels.

**Section 2**

**Headroom in seafarer accommodation and location of the accommodation**

Headroom in the normal passageways and recreation areas of accommodation shall be at least 203 centimetres.

Accommodation spaces may not be used as a passage to work stations and accommodation may not be in direct contact with work spaces. Free passage from passenger spaces to seafarers' accommodation shall not be provided. Hydraulic hoses, gas pipes, steam pipes or other pipes must not be led through accommodation spaces.

In ships of 500 gross tonnage or over sleeping rooms shall be completely located above the upper load line amidships or aft so that they are lit by natural light. Sleeping rooms may not be situated beneath a deck from which a substantial noise hazard arises.

**Section 3**

**Sleeping rooms and day rooms**

In single-berth sleeping rooms the floor area shall not be less than 4.5 square metres in ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage; 5.5 square metres in ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or over but less than 10,000 gross tonnage; and 7 square metres in ships of 10,000 gross tonnage or over.

On passenger ships and special purpose ships the floor area of sleeping rooms for seafarers not performing the duties of the ships' officers shall not be less than 7.5 square metres in rooms

accommodating two persons; 11.5 square metres in rooms accommodating three persons; and 14.5 square metres in rooms accommodating four persons. On such ships other than passenger ships and special purpose ships which are of less than 1,000 gross tonnage and in the case of which the occupational safety and health authority has permitted a derogation in accordance with section 11 of the Act on the Living and Working Environment and Catering for Seafarers on Board Ships (395/2012), sleeping rooms may be accommodated by two persons on condition that the floor area of the sleeping room is not less than 7 square metres.

The ship's master, the chief navigating officer, the chief engineer, the first engineer and the chief of the catering department shall have in addition to the sleeping room an adjoining day room. If the requirement on a separate day room is unreasonable in consideration of the ship's intended service and trading area, a derogation from this requirement may be permitted in the case of ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage, as is provided for in section 11 of the Act on the Working and Living Environment and Catering for Seafarers on Board Ships. If a seafarer performing the duties of the ship's officer is not provided with an adjoining day room in addition to the sleeping room, the floor area of the sleeping room shall not be less than 8.5 square metres in passenger ships and special purpose ships and not less than 7.5 square metres in other ships of less than 3,000 gross tonnage; 8.5 square metres in ships of 3,000 gross tonnage or over but less than 10,000 gross tonnage; and 10.0 square metres in ships of 10,000 gross tonnage or over.

Separate sleeping rooms shall be provided for men and for women.

#### **Section 4 Ventilation**

The accommodation shall have air conditioning. Ventilation must be adequate in consideration of the intended use of the space. The ventilation system for sleeping rooms and mess rooms should be adjustable so as to maintain satisfactory air quality and ensure a sufficiency of air movement in all conditions of weather and climate. Exhaust air from the sanitary accommodation and the hospital accommodation must be led straight to the open air.

The mechanical ventilation equipment for accommodation must be kept in working order. Dirt and other impurities in the equipment that cause immediate hazards to the seafarers' health must be cleaned off. The equipment shall function so as not to cause harm or danger to the seafarers' health.

#### **Section 5 Heating**

Heating shall be adequate in consideration of the ship's trading area. The temperature must be about 20 degrees centigrade. Heat should be spread evenly in the space so that no hazard will arise from it.

#### **Section 6 Lighting**

The accommodation shall have general lighting, if needed spotlighting, and emergency lighting in the passageways of the accommodation. In sleeping rooms a reading lamp should be installed at the head of each berth. In addition, the sleeping room or the day room must have a table-top lamp.

The colour shades of the lighting must be uniform, as close to natural light as possible, and the lighting should be directed so as not to cause dazzling or any other effect that hampers visibility. The lighting must be directed so as not to form shadows that cause disturbing or wrong visual effects. Avoiding formation of shadows that might be detrimental must especially be considered as regards the lighting of passageways and stairways.

Switches must be placed in such way that it is possible to maintain continuous lighting especially in the passageways. When assessing the distances between switches, the eventual general switches must be taken into account.

## **Section 7**

### **The minimum values of illuminance**

The minimum intensity of artificial lighting in accommodation shall be as follows:

General lighting		100 lux
Table-top light in mess rooms and recreational facilities		150 lux
Reading and writing lamp		
	Table-top lamp	500 lux
	Reading lamp at berths	300 lux
Passageways and stairways		100 lux
Sanitary accommodation		
	General lighting	100 lux
	Mirror light	300 lux

Provisions on the measurement of illuminance are laid down in Annex 1.

## **Section 8**

### **Noise**

A-weighted sound-pressure level for noise in accommodation shall not exceed the values given in Annex 2.

The noise level is measured and the results of the measurement are reported to the occupational safety and health authority in accordance with Annex 3.

## **Section 9**

### **Insulation of airborne sound**

The minimum airborne sound insulation between accommodation and other spaces shall be in accordance with the following values:

1. Sleeping room - sleeping room	30 dB
2. Sleeping room - noisy space where the maximum A-weighted sound-pressure level is 85 dB	45 dB
3. Sleeping room - passageway	30 dB
4. Recreation room - open deck	40 dB

Airborne sound insulation on board must be measured if it is noticed or there is reason to suspect that the insulation level is not equivalent to the insulation index mentioned above.

## **Section 10**

### **Equipment in sleeping rooms**

Each sleeping room shall be provided with a berth for each seafarer occupying the sleeping room. The berth must be at least 1.98 metres long and 0.80 metres broad. In addition, the sleeping room must be provided with a ventilated clothes locker equipped with a shelf and able to be locked. The clothes locker must be at least 1.80 metres high, 0.6 metres broad and 0.5 metres deep and it must have drawer space of 0.1 cubic metres.

Each sleeping room or day room shall be equipped with a table and a seat for each person occupying the room. The sleeping room must have a mirror and a chest of drawers for personal things, a bookcase and a sufficient number of hangers. Each berth shall be equipped with a drape if there are several berths in one sleeping room.

In ships of 500 gross tonnage or over, an extra clothes locker must be provided in sleeping rooms where regularly changing staff are placed.

In the case of ships of less than 500 gross tonnage or of special purpose ships, exemption from the requirement for sleeping room equipment may be granted if it is necessary from the technical point of view and equipment of the same standard can be provided in some other way.

## **Section 11**

### **Recreational facilities**

The ship's open deck shall be provided with a space or spaces for recreation which are freely accessible to the seafarers. Ships of 500 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with appropriately situated and equipped recreational facilities.

Ships of 5,000 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with a properly equipped meeting room and separate facilities for leisure activities and physical exercise.

## **Section 12**

### **Passageways**

The minimum free width of passageways, that is the distance between the handrails, shall be as follows:

ship's gross tonnage free width of passageway (in metres)

less than 100	0.65
100 - 499	0.70
500 - 999	0.75
1,000 - 2,999	0.85
3,000 and over	0.90



**Section 13**  
**Mess rooms**

Ships shall be provided with properly equipped mess room facilities of adequate size. In ships other than passenger ships, the mess rooms shall be so designed that all seafarers can have meals at the same time and that the rooms have natural light. The floor area of mess rooms must be at least 1.5 square metres per person.

In the case of ships of less than 100 gross tonnage or of special purpose ships, exemptions from the requirements for mess rooms may be granted if it is necessary from the technical point of view.

**Section 14**  
**Kitchen**

Ships of 100 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with a properly equipped kitchen.

**Section 15**  
**Sanitary accommodation**

Ships shall be provided with properly equipped washing facilities separate for men and for women. In ships of 500 gross tonnage or over, except for passenger ships, each sleeping room shall be equipped with a washbasin, unless there is one in the bathroom adjoining the sleeping room.

If there is not a shower for personal use by one or two persons on board, the ship must have sanitary accommodation equipped with a washbasin, toilet and shower for each six persons.

**Section 16**  
**Toilets**

A ship shall be provided with at least one toilet. Each toilet must have a washbasin.

Ships of 500 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with toilets that are easily accessible from the navigating bridge, engine room and engine room control centre. Cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with a toilet that is readily accessible from the deck.

**Section 17**  
**Sauna facilities**

Ships of 500 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with sauna facilities that include a steam room, shower room and dressing room. The steam room door must open outside at a mere push.

**Section 18**  
**Offices**

Ships of 500 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with a separate office or meeting room. In ships of 1,600 gross tonnage or over, the chief engineer must have an office. In ships of 500 gross tonnage or over carrying passengers or piece goods the navigating officer shall also have an office.

**Section 19**  
**Hospital accommodation**

A ship shall be provided with hospital accommodation if the number of seafarers is at least 15 and if the ship in normal conditions is out at sea without interruption for over three days. The hospital accommodation may be used only for its intended service.

The hospital accommodation must be easily accessible in all weather conditions. The berths, lighting, ventilation and heating shall be designed to facilitate the treatment and well-being of the occupants.

A bathroom shall be provided in close proximity to the hospital accommodation. Each hospital berth must be provided with equipment that enables a contact with the navigating bridge.

**Section 20**  
**Laundry facilities**

Ships of 500 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with facilities for washing, drying and ironing clothes. The spaces must be dimensioned according to the number of persons and the duration of the normal voyage. The laundry must have appropriate equipment.

**Section 21**  
**Lockers and other storage facilities and notice board**

In ships of 500 gross tonnage or over, outside the sleeping room the deck and machinery staff shall have a ventilated locker able to be locked for the keeping of work clothes.

The officers and the crew shall have a separate ventilated and lockable space for drying wet work clothes, if the seafarers regularly live on board.

Ships must have an appropriate space for cleaning equipment.

At least one locker that can be properly sealed shall be provided for the seafarers' undeclared goods.

An appropriate place for keeping documents on occupational safety and health cooperation and other documents on employment relations matters shall be provided on board.

Ships shall be provided with a notice board placed in a suitable place.

**Section 22**  
**Facilities for storage of food**

Facilities for the storage of food shall be so situated that they are easily accessible from the kitchen. It shall be possible to transport food to the ship and the storerooms by lifting equipment or by some other technical equipment.

Proper storerooms shall be reserved for different foodstuffs. The facilities for storage of food must be equipped with thermometers.

The freezer room shall have an alarm. It must be possible to open the freezer room door from inside too. The freezer room and the cold room must have enough shelf space.

### **Section 23**

#### **Order and cleanliness**

Order and cleanliness must be observed in the accommodation. The spaces must be cleaned and aired adequately often. The spaces must be cleaned thoroughly three times a year, when all seafarers change and when the risk of infection or some other reason so demands. Sleeping rooms and day rooms must be cleaned thoroughly when all persons placed in the room change.

### **Section 24**

#### **Entry into force**

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2013.

This Decree repeals the Decree on accommodation for seafarers on board a ship (518/1976).

*Subsections 3 - 5 repealed by 467/2013*

### **Section 25**

#### **Transitional provisions (467/2013)**

Sections 2 - 4 and 9, section 10(1) and sections 12, 13 and 16 of the Decree do not apply to a ship:

- 1) which has been in operation or finished on 1 January 2013 or before;
- 2) the keel of which has been laid down on 30 April 2013 or before;
- 3) which has been acquired secondhand from abroad on 20 August 2023 or before.

Certain measures, numbers of persons and other requirements concerning the spaces of ships apply to ships referred to in subsection 1 above as follows:

- 1) headroom in the normal passageways and recreation areas of accommodation shall be at least 1.90 metres in ships of less than 400 gross tonnage and at least 1.98 metres in other ships;
- 2) the number of persons in sleeping rooms shall be in accordance with Annex 4, and the floor areas of sleeping rooms shall be in accordance with Annex 5;
- 3) the minimum free width of passageways, that is the distance between the handrails, shall be in accordance with the following table:

ship's gross tonnage	free width of passageways (in metres)
65 - 399	0.65
400 - 999	0.75
1 000 - 2 999	0.85
3 000 and over	0.90

4) the floor area of the mess room must be at least 1 square metre per person;

5) ships of 400 gross tonnage or over shall be provided with mechanical ventilation, and in other ships ventilation in the accommodation shall be adequate;

6) a clothes locker for personal use and a berth located in the sleeping room must be appropriately dimensioned;

7) the level of airborne sound insulation in accommodation may deviate from the values given in section 9 by 3 dB, if a technically reliable investigation indicates that it is practically impossible or unreasonable to make the level of airborne sound insulation comply with the requirements.

If the accommodation of ships referred to in subsection 1, paragraph 3 does not meet the requirements laid down in subsection 2, paragraphs 1 - 4, it is not necessary to apply the provisions mentioned above if it is practically impossible or unreasonable to alter the accommodation to comply with the requirements and the accommodation in other respects is appropriate and safe to use.

If ships referred to in subsection 1, paragraph 3 are not provided with sauna facilities or laundry facilities and it is practically impossible or unreasonable to construct them on board or if the opportunities for having sauna baths and laundry services have been ensured in some other way, it is not necessary to apply sections 17 and 20 of the Decree.

Council Directive 2009/13/EC; EUOJ L 124, 20.5.2009

## *Annex 1*

### **Measurement of illuminance**

#### 1. General lighting

The measurement shall be made at a height of 0.8 metres from the floor or, in the case of stairways, at a similar height from the step surface.

The area is divided into squares where the length of one side is one metre at the maximum and the centre of the square is chosen as an observation point.

Measurements in passageways and stairways must be made at the centre line of the passageway or stairway in such a way that the distance between the observation points is not more than two metres.

#### 2. Spotlighting

When spotlighting is measured, the observation point is chosen according to the intended use of the light. If there is more than one light in the same room, the measurement is made using the same practice as when measuring general lighting.

3.

The illuminance of general lighting and spotlighting must be measured separately in spaces other than sanitary accommodation.

4.

When general lighting and spotlighting are being measured, the berth light must be out.

#### *Annex 2*

	Ship's gross tonnage			
	less than 500	500 - 2,999	3,000 - 9,999	10,000 or over
Sleeping rooms and day rooms and sanitary accommodation				
continuous steady noise at sea or in port	70 dB	65 dB	60 dB	60 dB
temporary noise at sea or in port	75 dB	70 dB	65 dB	65 dB
Mess rooms as well as day rooms and meeting rooms				
continuous steady noise at sea or in port	75 dB	70 dB	65 dB	60 dB
temporary noise at sea or in port	75 dB	70 dB	70 dB	65 dB

The A-weighted sound-pressure level in sleeping rooms in a ship bought second-hand from abroad may exceed the above values by 5 dB at the maximum.

#### *Annex 3*

### **Noise measurement in accommodation**

#### **1 General**

Noise levels shall be measured on board

- 1) all new ships;
- 2) ships where essential changes or repairs have been made;
- 3) ships whose main engine has been changed; and

4) ships bought second-hand from abroad, if an approvable noise measurement had not been carried out before the ship was bought.

Noise measurements must be carried out by a competent person.

## **2 Measurement conditions**

- Noise levels must be measured while the ship is trading in ballast or sailing a steady course.
- Measurements are made with the ship's main engine loaded by at least 80 per cent of the maximum power output. The necessary auxiliary engines, ventilation equipment and other equipment used continuously must be in operation.

If there is reason to assume that the equipment used for loading and discharging the ship causes such a heavy noise that the statutory values are exceeded, the measurement must also be taken while the loading and discharging equipment is in operation.

## **3 Measurement equipment**

- The measurement is carried out using an A-weighting filter.
- The measurement is carried out using a sound-level meter that must meet at least the requirements for precision sound-level meters laid down in the publication nr 179 or in [IEC 804-1985] by the International Electrotechnical Commission.
- The measuring instrument must be checked before and after each series of measurements. In checking the instrument a reliable sound source must be used.
- The display must be set on "fast response" during the measurement. If the display shows great deviations, the instrument must be set on "slow response". The average value on the display is thus the sound-pressure level. In the case of steady noise each measurement must last at least five seconds. The values are rounded off to the nearest whole decibel value.

## **4 Measurement points**

- At least one measurement shall be made in all accommodation spaces. The meter must be placed in the middle of the room at a height of about 1.25 metres from the floor surface or at ear level in the posture in which people normally are in the room.
- The measurement must be taken at the minimum distance of 0.5 metres from the wall, deck, furniture or the like.
- The ventilation or air-conditioning equipment must be adjusted to operate at full capacity. The measurement point must be at least one metre from a vent.

## **5. Reporting the measurement results**

In the case of ships mentioned in point 1, a report of the measurements on board the ship must be submitted to the occupational safety and health authority within six months from the date of transfer

of ownership. The report must contain a notice of the noise levels in the different spaces of the ship signed by the person who has made the measurements.

The report must indicate the measurement results for each measurement point. The measurement points must be marked in the drawings of the ship's general arrangements or interior, which must be enclosed with the report.

The following information must be given in the report:

- 1) the type of voyage, for example test run or voyage between ports a and b;
- 2) the ship's draught at bow and at stern;
- 3) wind, weather and sea conditions;
- 4) speed and course;
- 5) the load of the main engine and the auxiliary engines and the number of revolutions and the maximum speed of revolution for these;
- 6) other significant sources of noise that were contributory during the measurements;
- 7) the marks and types of the measurement equipment and;
- 8) other conditions that may be significant to the determination of noise levels.

#### *Annex 4*

#### **The number of persons in sleeping rooms:**

The number of seafarers placed in one sleeping room may not be more than

- 1) four persons in ships of less than 100 gross tonnage;
- 2) three persons in ships of 100 gross tonnage or over but less than 400 gross tonnage;
- 3) two persons in ships of 400 gross tonnage or over.

Each seafarer performing the duties of officers or junior officers shall have a sleeping room for his or her personal use.

In a ship of 1,000 gross tonnage or over which is not a passenger ship each seafarer must have a sleeping room for his or her personal use if it is possible in consideration of the ship's size, intended service and general arrangements.

In a ship of 3,000 gross tonnage or over the ship's master, the chief engineer, the chief navigating officer, the first engineer, one radio telegraphist and the chief of the catering department must, if possible, in addition to a sleeping room have an adjoining day room.

#### *Annex 5*

**The floor areas of sleeping rooms:**

## 1. Officers and junior officers

ship's gross tonnage	officers; the minimum area (m <sup>2</sup> )	officers; the minimum area (m <sup>2</sup> )
65 - 99	4.70	3.00
100 - 399	5.00	3.15
400 - 999	5.90	3.50
1,000 - 2,999	6.50	3.75
3,000 - 9,999	7.50	4.25
10,000 and over	7.50	4.75

## 2. Crew in ships other than passenger ships

ship's gross tonnage	officers; the minimum area (m <sup>2</sup> )			
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
65 - 99	3.00	4.00	6.00	8.00
100 - 399	3.15	4.30	6.45	-
400 - 999	3.50	5.00	-	-
1,000 - 2,999	3.75	5.50	-	-
3,000 - 9,999	4.25	6.50	-	-
10,000 and over	4.75	7.50	-	-

## 3. Crew in passenger ships

ship's gross tonnage	officers; the minimum area (m <sup>2</sup> )			
	1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
65 - 99	2.85	3.70	5.55	7.40
100 - 399	3.00	4.00	6.00	-
400 - 2,999	3.35	4.70	-	-
3,000 and over	3.75	6.00	-	-