

Use of Technical Aids on Board Ships (Work Equipment)

When reference is made to technical aids, it is useful to distinguish between *machinery* and *other technical aids*. Below, some typical examples are mentioned, but there are many more:

Fishing vessels

Machinery

Conveyor belts, fish lifts, winches, net drums, loading cranes, angle grinders and net windlasses.

Other technical aids

Knives, computers, sack trucks, video surveillance systems and shrimp cookers.

Merchant ships

Machinery

Scaling hammers, lathes, mooring winches, mixers, slicers, angle grinders and trucks.

Other technical aids

Computers, trolley containers, pallet lifters, cleaning trolleys and welding equipment.

According to the rules on the use of technical aids (machinery, scaffolding) on board ships, technical aids must be used in a fully sound and secure way as regards safety and health.

You can find the rules in Notice A from the Danish Maritime Authority, Chapter VI, on technical aids.

The rules concern the application of technical aids. This folder informs you about the general things that must be in order when you are to *use* a technical aid.

The Danish Maritime Authority requires the following of your aids:

Machinery

From 1 January 2003, you are only permitted to use machinery on board that is just as safe as machinery complying with EU regulations. If the machinery is CE-marked, you may normally presume that it is in order.

Machinery bought outside the EU must have the same safety level as that bought in the EU. In such cases, you or other responsible for this must ask the supplier of the machinery for a guarantee that it is in order.

Machinery put into service before 1 January 2003 must also comply with a number of design requirements as regards safety before you are permitted to use it.

The most important requirements are as follows:

The design must have the necessary strength and durability and any equipment for the limitation of the effects from pressure, temperature, material tension etc.

The design must ensure

- that you cannot touch dangerous machinery parts or substances
- that tools, elements, sprays etc. cannot be flung out and endanger you, and
- that heat, cold, radiation, noise, vibrations, dust, vapours etc. that are generated when you use the aid, do not endanger you

The connection, control and disconnection of the power supply must ensure that danger does not arise. Generally, it must be possible to stop the power supply quickly from places on or at the aid, possibly automatically.

Furthermore, requirements are made for operating devices, lighting, symbols, surfaces, edges, etc.

Specific requirements are made for automatically driven, operated or monitored technical aids, for example as regards surveillance and control.

Other technical aids

Other technical aids than machinery – e.g. stoves, cleaning trolleys and sack trucks – must comply with the same requirements as those applying to machinery before 1 January 2003. This applies no matter when the work equipment has been put into service.

The following applies to all types of technical aids:

Mounting

The mounting and dismounting of technical aids must be completely safe. In order for this to be in order, it is necessary to consider the location, placing, foundation, support, securing, noise and vibrations, hazards and inconvenience caused by noise, vapours, etc. carried away from the aids during use.

Directions for use

Directions must be available for the use of the aid, if it is necessary for your safety and health when you use it. The directions must provide information about:

- How to use the aid
- How to transport it
- How to mount it
- How to maintain it

The manufacturer or the supplier must make sure that directions are available for all machinery and other technical aids that have been put into service after 2003. Ask for them!

The directions must be easy to understand. It must also be in Danish. If the working language on board the ship is another language than Danish, the directions must also be available in this language. For example if it is necessary from a safety point of view.

It must be easy for you to get hold of the directions. If possible, they must be affixed directly to the aid.

Use

- Use technical aids only to carry out the work that they are intended for
- Use always protective equipment as intended
- Take precautions against special hazards during use
- Follow the instructions given in the directions
- Minimize any risk related to cleaning, repairs, maintenance, etc. by disconnecting the aid.

Instructions

Before you start using a technical aid, you must be instructed about its use. Perhaps more thorough training is also needed. If it is especially dangerous to use a specific kind of technical aid, the foreman can designate either you or somebody else as the only user.

Inspection and maintenance

The purpose of inspections and maintenance is to ensure that the technical aids are always in proper order and meet the necessary level of safety. Maintenance and inspections are carried out by the supplier or by any other person with the same qualifications, such as the master, the chief officer, the chief engineer or the chief mate.

In connection with inspections, the instructions given by the supplier must be followed.

Specific rules

Furthermore, additional rules apply to specific technical aids, such as:

- Lifting gear – e.g. lifts, working platforms and elevating work tables
- Hoisting gear – e.g. scaffolding and cranes
- Mechanically driven transport gear – e.g. conveyor belts and bucket conveyors
- Mobile work equipment/automotive work equipment – e.g. fork trucks.
- Work equipment applied for temporary work in height – e.g. ladders, scaffoldings, and rappelling

Advice and guidance

If you would like to know more, you can either read the rules as such or seek advice from:



- Danish Fishermen's Occupational Health Service
Tel. +45 75 18 05 66, or fax +45 75 18 05 75
e-mail: post@f-a.dk
- Danish Maritime Occupational Health Service
Tel. +45 33 11 18 33, or fax +45 33 11 14 60
e-mail: info@seahealth.dk

They can also be of help if you have any other questions about technical aids.
Furthermore, you are of course always welcome to contact the Danish Maritime Authority if you have any questions.