

Australian Transport Advisory Council

Uniform Shipping Laws Code

Section 6: Crew Accommodation

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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 6 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

CREW ACCOMMODATION SECTION

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 This Section applies to vessels of 25 metres and over but less than 55 metres in length.

3.2 Vessels of 55 metres in length and over shall comply with the Navigation (Crew Accommodation) Regulations.

3.3 The Authority may not require compliance with any of the provisions of this Section on vessels which are normally engaged on voyages for periods of less than 36 hours, or in which the crew is not required to reside on board.

3.4 In addition the conditions may be varied in the case of any vessel if the Authority is satisfied after consultation with the vessel's owners that the variations made provide corresponding advantages as a result of which the overall conditions are no less favourable than those that would result from the full application of the provisions of the Section.

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.

2 *Section 6*

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 upper 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.