

Law of the DPR Korea on Ship Safety

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on 21 January, Juche 98(2009)

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Chapter 4 Safe Navigation of Ships

Article 35 (Obligations of relevant organs for the safe navigation of ships)

The relevant institutions, enterprises and organizations including hydro-meteorological, hydrographic and port administration organs shall take necessary actions to ensure the safe navigation of ships in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Article 36 Minimum safe manning

Any ship's complement shall comply with the minimum safe manning standards for its safe navigation. Such standards shall be determined by the maritime administrative organ.

Article 37 Record of operation

Each ship shall be provided with the deck logbook, engine logbook and other required records in which accurate information concerning its operation shall be entered. Such entries therein shall be reported to the relevant shipping institutions, enterprises and organizations.

The deck logbook, engine logbook and other required records shall be retained for defined periods of time.

Article 38 Navigation safety measures during works at sea, river and lake.

Any institution, enterprise and organization which is engaged in such works as construction or dismantlement of underwater structure or cable, ship wrecks removal, drilling, waterway maintenance and ships recycling at sea, river and lake shall take appropriate safety measures to ensure that the navigation of ships nearby is not hindered.

Such measures shall be preceded by relevant consultation with the maritime administration organ.

Article 39 Maintenance of good condition of ships

Shipping institutions, enterprises and organizations shall maintain their ships in good condition in conformity with the requirements of the maritime laws and

regulations.

Any modification of structure or equipment of ships shall be subject to approval by the maritime administration organ.

Article 40 Preparations for navigation prior to departure

Within 12 hours before departure, each ship shall make preparations for its safe navigation. Such preparations shall include:

1. ensuring that the ship's complement complies with the minimum safe manning standards and had sufficient rest;
2. checking and testing the navigational equipment, main and auxiliary engines, steering gear, emergency power supply system and other necessary equipment and accordingly rectifying defects, if any;
3. planning the intended voyage, based on the appropriate nautical charts and publications and marine weather information;
4. taking necessary measures to maintain adequate stability throughout the voyage; and
5. taking other necessary actions for safe navigation.

Article 41 Pre-sailing inspection

Each ship shall be subject to a pre-sailing inspection prior to each voyage by the maritime administration organs. The ships, however, which have been found satisfactory during the recent pre-sailing inspections or during the recent port State control inspections may be exempted from the pre-sailing inspection for a certain period of time.

The pre-sailing inspection shall verify that a ship is in compliance with the maritime related laws and regulations, by checking that the required certificates and documentation have been placed onboard, the hull, machinery and equipment of the ship are in satisfactory condition, ship's complement complies with the minimum safe manning standards, the measures for safe navigation and pollution prevention are put in place, etc.

Any ship which has failed in such an inspection shall be prohibited from proceeding to sea.

Article 42 Compliance with regulations of safe cargo handling

Ships shall be loaded with cargoes in accordance with their types and services. Maritime cargoes including bulk solid cargoes, dangerous goods and liquid cargoes shall be stored, handled, arranged and carried onboard in accordance with the requirements of the relevant national and international instruments.

Article 43 Maintenance of safe navigation

Each ship shall maintain safe navigation by:

1. operating in accordance with the collision prevention regulations;

2. meeting the watchkeeping standards;
3. keeping to the sea areas in which the ship is certified to operate;
4. complying with the other regulations related to safe navigation.

Article 44 Operation of radio communication equipment and control of traffic

Ships shall maintain the automatic identification system and voyage data recorder in operation at all times in order to ensure regular communication with any coastal radio station or vessel traffic station, respond to its call and follow its orders.

Traffic control in the maritime traffic control area shall be subject to the relevant laws and regulations.

Article 45 Refuge and safety measures during navigation

Ships shall take refuge in safe areas or take necessary safety measures where they are faced with unfavorable conditions including navigational warnings or narrow waterways during their navigation.

Ships shall not proceed to sea in the weather condition which is too bad to ensure safe navigation.

Article 46 Emergency response plan and muster list of a ship

Ships shall maintain an emergency response plan and muster list to effectively respond to such emergency situations as fire, flood, distress and pollution.

In case of replacement of crew members, the muster list shall be revised.

Article 47 Operation of passenger ships, pleasure boats, ferries and fishing vessels

Passenger ships, pleasure yachts, ferries and fishing vessels shall be operated in accordance with their specific regulations concerning safety of life and navigation.

A ship shall be prohibited from proceeding to sea with no navigational equipment including radar and compass fitted onboard.

Article 48 Communication of information on foreign flagged ships in relation to the safety of navigation.

If a foreign flagged ship involved in a marine casualty or incident having occurred in the DPRK waters intends to call at, depart from or be repaired at any port of the DPRK, the agency of such a ship shall submit the relevant information to the maritime administration organs.

Article 49 Request for search and rescue service when in distress.

Any ship in distress may request search and rescue services from a search and rescue coordination organ or another ship navigating in close vicinity, by sending distress signals pursuant to the relevant procedures.

Any passenger ship shall develop a plan for search and rescue co-operation to be

used in the event of an emergency. Any such plan shall be subject to approval by the maritime administration organ.

The methodology and procedures for search and rescue operations shall be subject to the relevant laws and regulations.

Article 50 Payment of fee

Where ships and shipping institutions, enterprises and organizations have been provided with such services as design approval, surveys, navigational information communication and shipborne equipment reconditioning to ensure the ships' safety, they shall pay the required fees therefor.

Such fees shall be fixed by the national price control organ.