

NOTICE 988 OF 2003**SOUTH AFRICAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY****DRAFT MERCHANT SHIPPING (NAVIGATION BRIDGE VISIBILITY)
REGULATIONS: PUBLICATION FOR COMMENT**

The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), acting on the authority of the Minister of Transport, publishes for public comment the proposed regulations set out in the accompanying Schedule. Interested persons are invited to submit written comment to SAMSA on or before 16 May 2003 (Note: late submissions may be disregarded). Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, for the attention of Mr C Briesch, and may be either:

- hand-delivered to SAMSA, Block E Hatfield Gardens, 333 Grosvenor Street, Hatfield; or
- mailed to SAMSA, PO Box 13186 Hatfield 0028; or
- faxed to (012) 342 3160; or
- e-mailed to cbriesch@samsa.org.za.

Telephonic enquiries should be directed to Mr C Briesch at (012) 342 3049. Attention is invited to the explanatory note following the regulations.

SCHEDULE**DRAFT MERCHANT SHIPPING (NAVIGATION BRIDGE VISIBILITY)
REGULATIONS, 2003****Title and commencement**

1. These regulations are called the Merchant Shipping (Navigation Bridge Visibility) Regulations, 2003, and come into operation on <<date>>.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations any word or expression given a meaning in the Act has the meaning so given and, unless the context indicates otherwise

"Administration", in relation to—

- (a) a South African ship, means the Authority; and
- (b) any other ship, means the government of the State in which the ship is registered or, if unregistered, whose flag it is entitled to fly, or a person or organisation recognised by that government;

"length" has the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Tonnage Regulations, 1986;

"South African ship" includes an unregistered ship having South African nationality;

"the Act" means the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 (Act No. 57 of 1951).

Application

3. (1) Subject to subregulation (2), these regulations apply to—

- (a) South African ships anywhere; and
- (b) other ships when in the Republic or its territorial waters.

(2) A provision of these regulations does not apply to a South African ship in the waters of another State where the provision is inconsistent with a law of that State that, by its terms, applies to the ship when in the waters of that State.

Navigation bridge visibility

4. (1) Every ship of 45 metres or more in length constructed on or after 1 July 1998 must meet the following requirements:

- (a) The view of the sea surface from the conning position may not be obscured by more than two ship lengths, or 500 metres, whichever is the less, forward of the bow to 10 degrees on either side under all conditions of draft, trim and deck cargo.
- (b) Any blind sector that is caused by cargo, cargo gear or other obstructions outside the wheelhouse forward of the beam and that obstructs the view of the sea surface as seen from the conning position may not exceed 10 degrees. The total arc of blind sectors may not exceed 20 degrees. The clear sectors between blind sectors must be at least 5 degrees. However, in the view described in paragraph (a), each individual blind sector may not exceed 5 degrees.
- (c) The horizontal field of vision from the conning position must extend over an arc of not less than 225 degrees, from right ahead to not less than 22,5 degrees abaft the beam on either side of the ship.
- (d) From each bridge wing, the horizontal field of vision must extend over an arc of at least 225 degrees, from at least 45 degrees on the opposite bow through right ahead and then from right ahead to right astern through 180 degrees on the same side of the ship.
- (e) From the main steering position, the horizontal field of vision must extend over an arc from right ahead to at least 60 degrees on each side of the ship.
- (f) The ship's side must be visible from the bridge wing.
- (g) The height of the lower edge of the navigation bridge front windows above the bridge deck must be kept as low as possible. In no case may the lower edge obstruct the forward view as described in this subregulation.
- (h) The upper edge of the navigation bridge front windows must allow a forward view of the horizon, for a person with a height of eye of 1800 millimetres above the bridge deck at the conning position, when the ship is pitching in heavy seas. The Administration, if satisfied that a 1800 millimetre height of eye is unreasonable or impracticable, may allow reduction of the height of eye but not to less than 1600 millimetres.
- (i) Windows must meet the following requirements:
 - (i) framing between navigation bridge windows must be kept to a minimum and may not be installed immediately forward of any workstation;

- (ii) to help avoid reflections, the bridge front-windows must be inclined from the vertical plane top out, at an angle of not less than 10 degrees and not more than 25 degrees;
- (iii) polarised and tinted navigation bridge windows may not be fitted; and
- (iv) at all times, regardless of weather conditions, at least two of the navigation bridge front windows and, depending on the bridge configuration, additional windows, must provide a clear view.

(2) (a) Subject to paragraph (b), every ship of 45 metres or more in length constructed before 1 July 1998 must, where practicable, meet the requirements of subregulation (1)(a) and (b).

(b) Paragraph (a) does not require the making of structural alterations or the supply any additional equipment.

Exemptions

5. The Authority may grant exemption, on such terms (if any) as it may specify, from all or any of the provisions of these regulations (as may be specified in the exemption) for classes of cases or individual cases and may, after reasonable notice, alter or cancel any such exemption.

Offence and penalty

6. If a ship proceeds or attempts to proceed on any voyage without complying with the requirements of these regulations, the owner and master each commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations)

These regulations give effect to amendments to regulation V/22 of the Safety Convention adopted on 23 May 1998 by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and set out in Annex 2 to Resolution MSC.31(63). The regulations establish requirements for all ships of 45 metres or more in length constructed on or after 1 July 1998 as to visibility from the navigation bridge (including the position and construction of windows). Ships of 45 metres or more in length constructed before 1 July 1998 are required to comply, so far as practicable, with the requirements respecting visibility from the conning position.