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U. S. Navy Department • U. S. Maritime Commission

Minimum Requirements

FOR

SAFETY AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

IN

CONTRACT SHIPYARDS



Approved
U. S. Navy
Jan. 26, 1943



Approved
U. S. Maritime Commission
Feb. 9, 1943

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U. S. NAVY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

U. S. MARITIME COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To All Contractors Constructing Ships for United States Navy–United States Maritime Commission:

As a result of the national conference on safety and health in shipyards holding contracts with the United States Navy and Maritime Commission, conducted under the auspices of these agencies in Chicago December 7 and 8, 1942, a unanimous agreement was reached upon the minimum standards which have now been approved by the Navy Department and United States Maritime Commission and which should be put into effect in shipyards holding contracts with the two agencies.

These standards represent a specialized study based upon a fact-finding survey on all coasts by experts in that field. They have received the unanimous concurrence of the representatives of the medical and safety departments and of labor-management committees from shipyards on all coasts.

The necessity for conserving manpower and promoting the physical welfare, health, and safety of what shortly will amount to one million workers in shipyards requires that careful observance of standards for the prevention of accidents and protection of health be accorded. Aside from the weight which must be given humanitarian considerations, it is simply good common sense that as much care and attention be given to protecting the human factors in the war production program as is given machines.

Under the administrative direction of the Maritime Commission, safety and industrial health consultants will be made available in all regions wherein shipyards holding contracts with the Navy and the Commission are located.

Each contractor is hereby given notice that the Navy Department and the Maritime Commission will expect full and complete compliance with the minimum standards which bear the approval of the Navy Department and the Maritime Commission, and each is requested to give full cooperation to the consultants on health and safety who will be charged with the coordination and supervision of the safety and health programs of the two agencies.

The cumulative restriction of manpower makes speedy attention and comprehensive action in respect to the subject matter hereof of vital importance.

Frank Knox

FRANK KNOX, *Secretary of the Navy.*

E. S. Land

E. S. LAND, *Chairman,*
U. S. Maritime Commission.

13.7 *Asbestosis.*—

a. Sources: In general, any job in which asbestos dust is breathed. For example:

JOB:	WHEN MATERIAL IS:
Handling.	Asbestos
Sawing.	Asbestos mixtures.
Cutting.	
Molding.	
Welding rod salvage.	

b. Job can be done safely with:

1. Segregation of dusty work and,
2. (a) Special ventilation: Hoods enclosing the working process and having linear air velocities at all openings of 100 feet per minute, or
   (b) Wearing of special respirators.
3. Periodic medical examination.

13.8 Silicosis.—

a. Sources: In general, any job in which the dust of free silica (sand) is breathed daily. For example:

JOB
Sand-blasting
Sand packing of pipes
Shot blasting of castings

b. Job can be done safely with:

1. Isolation of dusty process and, in addition,
2. Special ventilation: In the case of sand-blasting, the work should be done in the standard type of sand blast room, cabinet, or machine.
3. Special respirator for dust-containing free silica.
4. Periodic examination by doctor.

13.9 Dermatitis.—

a. Sources: Excessive or improper use of cleaning agents such as gasoline. It is not at all uncommon to find dermititis caused by excessive use of common soaps such as those used in laundering. Cutting oils, certain greases, certain insulating materials used on electric cables and conduits can cause dermatitis.

b. Job can be done safely with:

1. Precautions against excessive use of the causative agent.
2. Advice of the medical department in the use of protective salves and creams.