



Seafish Construction Standards: Handrails

This notice should be read in conjunction with the Seafish Construction Standards (Release 2, April 2006). Where information in this notice contradicts the Standards, this notice is to take priority.

Date of effect: 1st July 2009

Summary

This Seafish Information Note provides an amendment to the Seafish Standards in relation to handrails fitted on vessels under 10m length overall.

Handrails

In addition to the rules stated in the Seafish Construction Standards concerning handrails, the following amendments shall apply for vessels under 10m length overall.

- 1) Where an exposed raised deck is not to be accessed for any reason whilst at sea, then hand rails may be omitted around this area. In such cases, access to the raised deck from the working deck should be prevented by use of rails, wires or chains fitted in accordance with the Standards to maintain a top rail height of 1000mm above the working deck (or step if fitted), and notices should be fitted at the adjoining boundary stating "No access beyond this point." If any form of hatch, skylight or door provides access to the exposed raised deck then handrails must be fitted around the raised deck in accordance with the Standards.
- 2) Where an exposed raised deck is not to be accessed for any reason whilst at sea except for anchor release and retrieval, then handrails may be omitted from the perimeter of this area and a suitable rail system fitted to allow the use of a safety harness and tether. In such cases, access to the raised deck from the working deck should be restricted using removable wires or chains fitted in accordance with the Standards to maintain a height of 1000mm above the working deck (or step if fitted), and notices should be fitted at the adjoining boundary stating "Safety harness must be worn beyond this point." If any form of hatch, skylight or door provides access to the exposed raised deck then

handrails must be fitted around the raised deck in accordance with the Standards.

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