

Effectiveness of Seafarers' Safety Measures Onboard Vessel

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Abstract - *This study aimed to determine the effectiveness of the safety measures on board. Specifically, it sought to identify the effectiveness of safety measures on board, determine the level of safety measures on board vessels, to determine the problems encountered by seafarers on board ships and to propose actions to enhance/improve safety measures on board. Descriptive type of research was employed in the study. Results show that safety measures on board are found to be highly effective. An action plan was proposed to improve the effectiveness of safety measures on board. It is recommended that seafarers may be aware of the effectiveness of safety measure while working on board a vessel so that they could be conversant with the standards.*

Keywords: *safety measures, vessel, shipping, on-board, effectiveness.*

INTRODUCTION

Maritime safety, efficient maritime transport and navigational system, as well as safety of humans and the environment, are among the prioritized concerns of those engaged in maritime industry (Javier and Aguado, 2012). In general safety is the state of being "safe", the condition of being protected against physical, social, spiritual, financial, political, emotional, occupational, psychological, educational or other types or consequences of failure, damage, error, accidents, harm or any other event which could be considered non-desirable. Safety is also a recognized hazard to achieve an acceptable level of risk. This can take the form of being protected from the event or from exposure to something that causes health or economical losses Wiki Safety (2010).

Personal safety in ship's operation as regards to meeting up with, knowing how the machinery are been maintained, familiarization with cargo operations, mooring equipment, knowing how and ways of handling chemicals, cleaning and general ship's operation. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulation of International Safety Management (ISM) code (1993). Whose

purpose is to ensure Safety of life at Sea (SOLAS), to prevent human injury or loss of life, and to avoid damage to the environment and the ship. Personal safety or safety of life at sea comes at the top of the priority list as there is no loss that is considered greater than the loss of human life. Shipping companies understand the importance of the safety of human life at the sea and thus rank it at the very top. It is a known fact that without an efficient crew no shipping company can survive (Wankhede & Kantharia, 2012).

In particular, this includes the vital need for all concerned to understand the relationship between unsafe acts and serious incidents that may cause loss of life or severe damage to property and the environment. The importance of changing behaviour, and avoiding negative attitudes or complacency towards safety and environmental protection is also underlined ("Implementing an Effective Safety Culture", 2013). For shipboard, the term personal safety is a result of the systematic approach to working procedures without compromising on any protective measure. To ensure a safe working environment, start every job on the ship with "Safety First" attitude and everything else would fall into