

## GENERAL STATEMENT OF RISK

This part to be submitted to the Commanding Officer or their designate upon boarding.

By completing the bottom of this form, the undersigned acknowledges that he or she has read the content of this General Statement of Risks and accepts these risks as inherent in taking passage aboard a Canadian Coast Guard Ship. The ship will normally be operated in accordance with the policies and procedures stated in the Fleet Safety Manual (DFO/5737) issued to meet the requirements of the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for the Prevention of Pollution (ISM Code). The ISM Code is Chapter IX of the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

Regardless of the policies and procedures contained in the Fleet Safety Manual, "In matters of safety and pollution prevention, the Commanding Officer has the overriding authority to take whatever action the Commanding Officer considers to be in the best interests of the safety of the passengers, safety of the crew, safety of the ship, and the protection of the marine environment." (*The Coast Guard Fleet Safety Manual DFO/5737 – Procedure #5.A – 3.1.1*)

Supernumerary personnel should also take note that the Criminal Code of Canada provides that, "*The master or officer in command of a vessel on a voyage is justified in using as much force as he believes, on reasonable grounds, is necessary for the purpose of maintaining good order and discipline on the vessel.*" [R.S. c.C-34, s.44.]

Coast Guard ships are dynamic platforms with violent movements in three axes. Ships with hulls designed for icebreaking duties are even livelier in heavy sea conditions than other ships. For this reason, supernumerary personnel must have a good sense of balance and be extremely aware of the placement of their feet and use of handholds and grab rails when the vessel is working in a sea. Supernumerary personnel must also take care to secure equipment and personal effects to prevent these items from moving or being thrown about while at sea. Failure to do so can result in broken bones, lacerations, abrasions, burns, or, if the person is thrown overboard, drowning.

Persons who suffer from seasickness should be aware that they need to start a course of preventative medication well in advance of joining the ship. The ship's medical chest has limited quantities of motion sickness pills and suppositories but their effect is very limited when started after sickness is encountered. Failure to control seasickness could result in dehydration, confusion, or the loss of situational awareness that could be a contributing factor in falls and inappropriate response to stimuli.

Potable water supplies on short duration voyages are normally supplied from tanks aboard the ship that have been filled with municipal supply. Ships have the ability to desalinate and purify water through a number of engineering systems fitted aboard. Potable water supplies are routinely checked for contamination. However, there is a possibility that desalination efforts may not be able to keep up with demand, the desalination plants will fail, or the supply will become contaminated. This will mean that there is a risk of being placed on rations for potable water, which imposes risk of dehydration. Non-potable water may contain a level of salt or tank minerals, which can irritate the skin.

Coast Guard ships use a common messing system. That means that meals are centrally prepared from a cyclical menu. Cooks, at a minimum, are certified to the Ship's Cook certificate requirements of the Marine Certification Regulations of the Canada Shipping Act. There is a potential for allergic reactions to certain ingredients used in food preparation if the catering staff are not warned in advance of the supernumerary personnel's allergens or dietary needs. Allergic reactions may be manifested in loss of consciousness or swelling restricting breathing or circulation that could result in disability or death. Many Coast Guard ships are advanced in age and although well maintained and operated by proficient individuals there is always the possibility of mechanical or system failures. This may mean that there will be sudden electrical blackouts or temperature vagaries in the supply of domestic water. Emergency power can be supplied quickly to essential circuits but these circuits are not normally fitted in passenger cabins or laboratory work areas. These situations present a risk to individuals of disorientation, loss of power to personally essential equipment, destruction or deterioration of temperature sensitive samples resulting in contamination and bacterial development, burns, scalds, and falls or knocks.

Coast Guard ships are working ships that may be involved in lifting large weights, ice-breaking, scientific research, search and rescue, fisheries enforcement operations, or aid to other government departments in suppression of criminal activity or surveillance and interception of migrant smugglers. Each of these various tasks carries its own set of risks. Normally supernumerary personnel are not directly involved in these operations. However, in the case of search and rescue, it is possible that supernumerary personnel may be required to assist in caring for survivors. This will expose the supernumerary personnel to unpleasant sights, smells, and sounds, which might include exposure to bodily fluids from victims. There is a risk of exposure to disease.

Work and life aboard a Coast Guard ship will quite often involve the use of small boats operating remotely from the mother ship. While appropriate personal protective equipment will be supplied, there are still possibilities of injury from being struck by suspended loads, falling into the sea, slipping or falling in transfer between the boat and the ship or shore, as well as exposure to sea and weather conditions. This exposes the supernumerary personnel to possible hypothermia, drowning, lacerations, fractures, and other injuries.

Coast Guard ships are required to be self reliant to face emergency situations aboard such as flooding and fire. While the ships are well maintained, well crewed, and contingency plans are in place, there is always a possibility of an untoward event. In these cases, the supernumerary personnel may find themselves assigned to assist the ship's crew in controlling flooding, fighting fire, or assisting in the readying of craft for abandoning ship. In these types of circumstances the supernumerary

personnel will be working under direct supervision. There is a danger of being drowned, suffering severe burns, being struck or impaled, or reacting unfavourably to unaccustomed strenuous exertion in a high drama situation.

Medical treatment aboard Coast Guard ships is normally limited to First Aid provided by a holder of a Marine First Aid Certificate. The ship's Rescue Specialists, when carried, may provide more aggressive treatment. However, in either case, medications and equipment carried aboard is extremely limited, is geared primarily to treat injuries as opposed to medical conditions, and is sufficient to stop bleeding, immobilize breaks, or maintain breathing. Personal requirements for prescription medication, or patent medicines, required to treat pre-existing conditions, are the personal responsibility of the individual. Supernumerary personnel with pre-existing medical conditions must ensure: that their condition is stable; that their medication is both established and available; that their condition is known to their on-board supervisor, the First Aid Attendant(s) and/or Rescue Specialist(s), and the Commanding Officer; and, that they have a sufficient supply of their prescribed medication with them for the planned duration of the voyage plus an appropriate additional amount to allow for the possibility of delays. Failure to do so could result in long and short-term complications or death.

In the event of medical emergencies or injuries at sea, the ship will contact medical authorities ashore to obtain advice. The ship may have to divert to the closest port of refuge to evacuate the patient. The time taken to gain port or to evacuate the patient depends on many variables – the distance to be travelled, sea conditions, weather conditions, the seaworthiness of the ship, and the speed of the ship. It is possible that the time taken to evacuate the patient may be measured in days. The condition of the patient may be adversely affected by this time factor.

Even though many Coast Guard ships are helicopter landing capable or may be equipped with a helicopter, the ability of the helicopter to make an immediate evacuation cannot be assumed. The distance off shore, the weather, the sea-state, and the capacity of the helicopter will all have an effect on the time taken to affect an evacuation. The condition of the patient may be adversely affected by this time factor. It should also be noted that evacuation by helicopter where the patient is winched upwards to the helicopter in a stretcher or horse collar is a terrifying experience, especially when combined with rough sea conditions, darkness, and an already heightened apprehension of mortality on the part of the patient.

The Coast Guard will take such steps as are necessary and within its competence to stabilize a patient for transportation to the shore for transfer to a shore medical facility. Charges for transportation by ambulance services and charges for medical care at the shore medical facility are the responsibility of the patient. For this reason, it is advisable that supernumerary personnel take appropriate steps, especially when the supernumerary is non-Canadian or when the voyage will be in foreign (non-Canadian) waters, to ensure that they have sufficient medical insurance coverage for such eventualities. Failure to have appropriate insurance coverage could result in delays in treatment, a reduced level of care, or detention pending settlement of the account.

The Coast Guard assumes no liability for loss of, or damage to, any personal effects or equipment brought aboard the ship or the aircraft by supernumerary personnel. Supernumerary personnel may wish to consider purchasing insurance from their own insurance carrier to cover such eventualities as loss of personal property or damage to personal property, to avoid out-of-pocket expense.

Certain areas of the ship and access to certain items of ship's equipment such as the onboard local area network or secure communications may not be available to certain supernumeraries by reason of their security clearance status with the Canadian government. Any restrictions will be explained by the Commanding Officer upon the supernumerary joining the ship.

My signature below indicates that I have read The General Statement of Risks (Annex A to Fleet Safety Manual Procedure #6.C.2) outlining the risks that may be encountered by me while aboard the below-named Coast Guard ship during the below-stated period of time. I acknowledge that I have understood these risks. I also acknowledge that I have asked for additional information where necessary and that I have been satisfied with the response that I have received. Understanding that none, some, or all of the above listed events may arise while on board the vessel, I accept these risks as being inherent in being aboard the vessel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Aboard CCGS: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Where