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## Circular 2014/002

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### Prevention of drug and alcohol abuse

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Date: 22 October 2014

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this circular is to inform any shipping company the requirements and application procedure in regard of prevention of drug or alcohol abuse on board of Belgian flagged vessels. This circular is making reference to Regulation VIII/1, paragraph 2 of the STC95 Convention and Code III, part 2, paragraph 16.3.

1. Drug and alcohol abuse directly affect the fitness and ability of a seafarer to perform watchkeeping duties or duties that involve safety, prevention of pollution and security duties.
2. Seafarers found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol should not be permitted to perform watchkeeping duties that involve safety, prevention of pollution and security duties, until they are no longer impaired in their ability to perform these duties.
3. For the purpose of preventing alcohol abuse, a limit of 0,05% blood alcohol level (BAC) or 0,22 mg/l alcohol in the breath or a quantity of alcohol leading such alcohol concentration for Masters, Officers and other seafarers while performing safety, security and environmental duties should be strictly followed.
4. The shipping company shall establish a drug and alcohol policy within their Safety Management System enduring no seafarer is under influence of drugs and/or alcohol when performing duties. Procedures shall be in place to subject the master, officers and other seafarers to regular and unscheduled alcohol tests. Tests carried out, and results are to be recorded by the company. The drug and alcohol policy, and recording of tests are subject to the periodical ISM audits (SMC and DOC).
5. Flag State Inspectors and ISM Auditors may randomly verify the blood alcohol level during the scheduled Flag State Inspections and ISM Audits. Drug and alcohol tests may also be subject to Port State Control Inspections. Non-compliance may result in penalties and/or control measures imposed to the shipping company and master by the Belgian Maritime Inspectorate.

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