



Explanatory notice Standards for basic safety training for deckhands

1) Context

Annex I of Directive (EU) 2017/2397 states that deckhands shall be at least 16 years old and have completed a “**basic safety training according to national requirements**” (1.1).

CESNI took note that in most of its Member States, national requirements for basic safety training for deckhands will not have been defined before the application of this requirement as of 2022. This is why CESNI considered it useful to provide for harmonised standards that can be seen as a **recommendation** for a training **addressing the most relevant dangers on board** of typical vessel types. The training is aimed at **deckhands who are newcomers** to inland navigation and who do not follow a professional training (e.g. persons working for a limited time on a ferry operating only seasonally).

2) Methodology

In 2018, CESNI decided to work on the basis of **recommendation no. 7 established by the International Committee for the Prevention of Work Accidents in inland navigation (CIPA¹)**. CIPA therefore recommends, in the interests of optimum accident prevention, that all competent authorities, workers' and employers' organisations provide qualified training in this field for new entrants to the profession. This covers basic rules of safety at work, handling of personal protection equipment, awareness of specific dangers of the vessel as workplace and the behaviour in emergency situations (fire, person over board etc.).

3) Content of the standards

The standards contain requirements for training providers and training content.

The training shall, in general, have a duration of approx. **3 days**, focussing on:

Using live-saving appliances to prevent drowning	6 hours
Moving safely on board to prevent falling , communicating with other crew (including 8 standard phrases for emergency situations in English), applying safety rota and being aware of dangers related to ropes and wires	3 hours
Basics of firefighting on board and use of portable extinguishers	2 hours
Basics of risks from noise on board	2 hours
Basics of handling hazardous materials (e.g. paints, not to be confused with handling dangerous goods (ADN) with specific requirements)	3,5 hours
Basic first aid measures	3 hours

¹ www.cipa-online.org

The training shall also include 8 standardised phrases in English language that can be used in emergency situation. Content and, if useful for clarification, training format are defined per item.

The training may be provided by a **public or private provider**, provided that it is approved by a competent authority.

The recommendation given by CESNI can be used as basis for national law.

4) **Impact on inland navigation**

The definition of standards for basic safety training allows for **an effective harmonisation of requirements**.

They contribute to a **better standard of protection at work** and to **the safety of crew members and navigation as they define details of a requirement that did not exist at international level before 2022**.
