

## Distractions on Watch

### Background:

We have been advised of cases in the Fleet whereas Officers on watch use personal electronic devices like smart phones or tablets for non-watch keeping related activities like entertainment and/or individual needs. Such devices present sources of distraction and inhibit the SOLAS and STCW required adequate watch-keeping duties and proper lookout. It is of paramount importance that such devices are not allowed to be used during watch on the Bridge and in the Engine Control Room.

### References:

- 1) VMS: [Fleet Ops > 4.0 Marine Operations > 4.1 Navigational Operations>](#) 4.1.3 Bridge Watchkeeping
- 2) VMS: [Fleet Ops > 5.0 Technical Procedures >](#) 5.4 Engine Room Organisation

## ACTIONS REQUIRED

### The Master / Chief Engineer:

- 1) Hold a dedicated meeting with all the Bridge / ECR team, both officers and ratings to:
  - a) Emphasize the importance of adequate watch-keeping and the hazard of distractions
  - b) Re-iterate the relevant VMS requirements (referenced herewith)
  - c) Stress that disciplinary measures will be taken for non-compliance
- 2) **Prohibit with a Standing Order the following distractions on the Bridge/ECR:**

- a) *Electronic entertainment equipment, including but not limited to radios, TVs, music players, iPods, mp3 players etc*
  - b) *Playing of music*
  - c) *Personal mobile phones, tablets, laptops*
  - d) *Use of laptops with unauthorized software / functions for watchkeeping*
  - e) *Newspapers, magazines, other leisure reading material*
  - f) *Any other item deemed to be a distraction*

- g) *The Officer of the Watch shall not perform other non-watch related paperwork*
- 7) Have all the Bridge and ECR team (Officers and ratings) sign the above Standing Order
- 8) Revert to the DPA / Fleet Cell with positive confirmation of the above actions and a copy of the Standing Order within 2 weeks of receipt of this Bulletin
- 9) Have newly joining Bridge/ECR team members sign the Standing Order

**Note:** As a general rule - Phones/tablets are not allowed to be used during work duties in any workplace by on duty personnel onboard

■ ■ Completed ■ ■