

Date: 07.01.2020  
Case number: 2019/31303-4  
Case handler: EVS

## Proper securing of hatches on board

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) regards it necessary to clarify the legislation related to proper securing of hatches on board ships according to [Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 507 on safety measures, etc. on passenger ships, cargo ships and barges, section 10.](#)

Fishing vessels are not covered by the scope of application of the Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 507. However, the provisions regarding securing of hatches on board are set out in the respective regulations on construction for this vessel group.

### Background

The NMA has been informed that the interpretation of the current legislation may result in insufficient securing of hatches, causing an increased risk of serious accidents. We request the industry to ensure that all hatches on board can be secured when placed in an open position.

### Measures

- Prior to entering or repairing the hatches, they must be secured with an appropriate safety device to prevent them from falling down. A safety device of this type shall be a supplement to any lifting appliances.

### Risk assessment requirements

Established requirements for risk assessment of hazards on board. Among the assessments to be reviewed with regard to entering hatches or work related to hatches are risks, adequate expertise, physical barriers, number of personnel involved and maintenance procedures. The NMA has developed a risk assessment tool free of charge on our [website](#).



## References to relevant regulations:

[Regulations of 15 June 1987 No. 507 on safety measures, etc. on passenger ships, cargo ships and barges.](#)

[Regulations of 13 June 2000 No. 660 on the construction, operation, equipment and surveys of fishing vessels of 15 m in overall length \(LOA\) and upwards](#)

[Regulations of 22 November 2013 No. 1404 on fishing vessels of less than 15 metres in overall length](#)

[Regulations of 1 January 2005 No. 8 on the working environment, health and safety of persons working on board ship](#)

[Regulations of 1 July 2014 No. 1072 on the construction of ships](#)

Lars Alvestad

Director General of Shipping and Navigation

Håvard Gåseidnes

Head of Department

This document has been electronically approved, and therefore does not contain handwritten signatures.