



SAFETY FLASH: WORKING TOGETHER SAFELY

GOOD PRACTICE

👍 Make agreements.

Good agreements are clear for everyone. You do this by keeping them as factual and clear as possible, and to record them on related documents like the loading and discharging plan. For example: an agreement that PPE is worn at all times according to instructions. With PPE we mean amongst others a lifejacket, safety shoes, glasses, helmet and respiratory protection.



👍 Keep to the agreements.

Trust between crewmembers is created when agreements are kept. Everyone should be able to blindly trust each other to keep to the agreements, then less irritations and misunderstandings will arise. This starts with keeping your own promises. For example: you have an agreement that PPE will be worn at all times, however, since it is hot outside, you decide not to wear them. Then you are not keeping to the agreements.

👍 Ask questions when things are not clear.

If you don't understand something or if you are unsure, ask. It might seem dumb, but in contrast it is very wise, because you might be right or prevent an incident from happening. It helps when you speak the same language, you can prevent miscommunication. For example: a sailor communicates to the captain that the boiler is burning, but it is unclear whether he means the boiler is on or on fire. A follow-up question would give more clarity.



Many incidents or near misses can be prevented by clear communication, keeping each other up to date and having clear agreements.



BAD PRACTICE

- ✗ Not reporting or discussing unsafe situations.
- ✗ Withholding (small) defects.
- ✗ Working on your own.
- ✗ Accusing.
- ✗ Saying one thing and doing something else.
- ✗ Jumping to conclusions.
- ✗ Swearing at each other.

ACTION QUESTIONS:

- How can we improve our agreements?
- What are examples of moments when it did not go well? What can we learn from this?
- How do we address each other's behavior in a respectful manner?