

# AMERICAN MARITIME OFFICERS

## Deep-Sea Shipping Rules



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Any person seeking offshore (DS) employment through AMO must be a member of AMO or an applicant for AMO Membership in good standing and must comply fully with these Rules, the AMO National Constitution and any policies established and published by the National Executive Board.

## **Registration**

### **Section 1:**

All persons seeking offshore employment must register in person, by mail, e-mail or by telephone with the Dispatcher. At the time of registering, the following information must be supplied to the Dispatcher:

- a) Date available (which cannot be earlier than the “back to work date”);
- b) USCG documents held and expiration dates;
- c) Position desired;
- d) Type of vessel desired, if any;
- e) Membership or applicant number;
- f) Contact information;
- g) Passport information and expiration date;
- h) Drug test information and expiration date;
- i) Benzene test information and expiration date;
- j) STCW Certification information and expiration date;
- k) Refrigeration Certification information if applicable; and
- l) Any other required documents or certifications and their expiration dates.
- m) TWIC Card

### **Section 2:**

In order to register for and to be assigned offshore (DS) employment, the person at the time of both registration and assignment must:

- a) Be an active member or applicant in good standing (dues paid current);
- b) Not be receiving unearned wages;
- c) Not be registered for employment in any other area of the AMO [registration for Port Relief Work or Emergency break-out is not considered being registered in accordance with subparagraph (c)];
- d) Be fit and ready for duty; and
- e) Not be receiving vacation benefits.

### **Section 3:**

Registration for employment shall be with a Dispatcher or an authorized Official of the Union. Registration shall be noted by date and run consecutively. Persons who have registered shall be described as “registrants” under these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules.

### **Section 4:**

In order to retain the registration position, registrants shall be available for duty when requested by the Union during times of emergencies, disputes or by a majority vote at a membership meeting, and shall possess all documents required in “Registration” Section 1 and comply with all of the requirements of Section 2 above.

## **Section 5:**

Members duly assigned to permanent jobs must comply with all of these Rules at the time of registering and advise the Dispatcher of such status. It is the sole responsibility of such members to receive clearance from the Union prior to rejoining their vessels.

Failure to comply with these Rules will subject the member to disciplinary action according to the AMO National Constitution, including possible loss of permanent status.

## **Section 6:**

Registered members may choose to reject an assignment without losing their position on the Registration List, provided that any such member who rejects three (3) assignments shall automatically be re-registered at the bottom of the Registration List as of the date of the third (3rd) rejection. The registration of members who do not accept an offered assignment within 12 months of the date of the initial registration shall automatically be revoked, and the affected members must re-register in accordance with these Rules.

Registered applicants who reject any job assignments shall automatically be re-registered at the bottom of the registration list as of the date of rejection. Applicants rejecting two job assignments shall be removed from the list and allowed to re-register no earlier than six (6) months from that date.

## **Section 7:**

A “temporary” assignment cannot be changed to a “permanent” assignment unless approved by the Union.

## **Section 8:**

Registrants cannot be assigned to a position higher than their possessed documents except in cases of emergencies.

## **Section 9:**

Assignment of watches will be at the discretion of the Master or Chief Engineer, as the case may be, in accordance with the contract covering the vessel or the prevailing custom of the vessel.

# **Port Relief Registration**

## **Section 10:**

Persons seeking port relief must register in person, by mail, email or by telephone at Headquarters for such work in Pascagoula, Mississippi, east to and including all of Florida; at the Galveston office for other areas in the Gulf, and at the San Francisco/Oakland office for the West Coast and Hawaii.

## **Section 11:**

At the time of registering for port relief work, all information required by Section 1 under registration of these Rules must be given by the Registrant.

## **Section 12:**

Assignment of port relief work shall be accomplished in accordance with the procedures for offshore work assignments.

# **Employment**

## **Section 1:**

All assignments of Offshore (DS) jobs are made solely by the Dispatcher or an Officer of AMO through the Dispatch office. The Union (AMO) can enforce shipping book members over applicants for membership.

## **Section 2:**

Contacts are made from the Dispatch Office between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. (local time), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, except when emergencies dictate otherwise. Such contacts are made by telephone using the information supplied by the registrant, or in person.

## **Section 3:**

When calling for the purpose of assignments, the Dispatcher will provide the following information:

- a) Name and type of vessel;
- b) Position available and the approximate effective date;
- c) Duration and type of assignment (permanent or temporary);
- d) Location of vessel;
- e) Name of company;
- f) Intended voyage (foreign, coastwise, nearby foreign and/or intercoastal); and
- g) Wages and benefits.
- h) Necessary certifications.

## **Section 4:**

Upon acceptance of an assignment, the registrant will follow instructions given by the Dispatcher; the Company will be notified by the dispatcher of the acceptance by the registrant; the dispatcher will provide the company with the name and contact information at that time.

## **Section 5:**

Any person who accepts an assignment of a duration of 30 days or less, or who through no fault of his/her own, is laid off within 30 days or less, shall be restored to the position on the registration list previous to the assignment.

## **Section 6:**

All members assigned to permanent jobs may, by notifying the Dispatcher in a timely manner:

- a) Request a vacation relief with the right to return to their assignment;
- b) Request a leave of absence for personal illness or injury with the right to return to their assignment;
- c) Request a leave of absence for personal reasons other than those in (b) above with the right to return to their assignment, provided that such leave does not exceed six (6) months, and that the concerned member does not accept employment elsewhere during such leave; and
- d) Return to their assignment on a vessel which has been withdrawn from service provided that the concerned member does not accept employment elsewhere during such period.

**Section 7:**

Assignment may not under any circumstances exceed a total of 18 months (540 days) of accumulated employment, except for ROS, without the member or applicant taking a vacation. Members or Applicants with less than 18 months of employment who intend to make a voyage which will extend their accumulated employment beyond 18 months, unless specifically permitted, must receive written clearance from the Union before making the trip.

**Section 8:**

When an RRF ship completes an assignment, the officers must stay with the ship if the ship is returning to homeport within 30 days or less or the ship goes into ROS (reduced operating status).

**Section 9:**

All persons subject to these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules may not return to covered employment before the completion of their vacations without approval from the Union. Except in cases of emergencies, credit for vacation benefits will not accrue until the “back to work” date has passed.

**Section 10:**

All persons subject to these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules shall give at least 48 hours notice when intending to leave their assignments and shall not leave their assignments before their relief is actually aboard the vessel. This Rule shall not apply when a person authorized by the Union to leave the Vessel before being properly relieved or in cases of personal emergencies, in which case the Union shall, thereafter be notified as soon as possible.

**Section 11:**

All persons who have been dispatched to any job pursuant to these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules may not accept any changes in shipboard assignment or transfers from one company vessel to another unless specifically cleared by the Union, except in cases of emergencies, whereupon the Union shall thereafter be notified as soon as possible.

**Section 12:**

All persons dispatched to any jobs pursuant to these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules must promptly notify the Dispatcher after being relieved from an assignment.

**Section 13:**

a) Persons reporting for Offshore (DS) or port relief work shall do so in a condition to immediately properly perform their duties, if and when necessary.

Persons so assigned must have with them all documents required as outlined under “Registration” Sections 1 and 2.

b) Persons who report for assigned work without the documents required under “Registration” Sections 1 and 2 shall be replaced immediately with such persons paying the transportation costs incurred by the replacement persons and must re-register in accordance with these Rules.

## **Section 14:**

Members or Applicants must comply with any and all employment requirements to be eligible for employment on a government-chartered vessel.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Section 1:**

a) (1) A “permanent” assignment occurs when a permanent vacancy exists and a member successfully returns for his or her 2nd assignment or when a permanently assigned member dies, quits, or is discharged for cause, which discharge is upheld in the grievance procedure or by an arbitrator, accepts employment with another company or accepts employment in a capacity other than that of such permanent assignment.

(2) A “temporary” assignment occurs when a permanently assigned member leaves such position for any reason other than those listed in (1) above.

(3) Duration of a temporary assignment shall be as dictated by the Dispatcher at the time of Assignment.

b) (1) The term “applicant” or “applicant for membership” shall mean a person seeking admission to membership in AMO by filing an appropriate application who has not satisfied the initiation fee obligation of AMO or whose acceptance to membership in AMO by membership action is pending.

(2) The term “member” means a person who has been admitted into membership.

(3) The term “good standing” means all financial obligations are satisfied and dues are paid through the current quarter.

### **Section 2:**

Members or applicants shall not engage in any strike or work stoppage which is not specifically authorized by the Union.

### **Section 3:**

Any person who believes that any provision of these Offshore Shipping (DS) Rules or approved published National Executive Board Policies have been violated, must immediately notify Union Headquarters in writing.

### **Section 4:**

Any person violating any provision of these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules or approved published National Executive Board Policies will be subject to discipline in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the AMO National Constitution.

### **Section 5:**

It is in the best interest of AMO that all persons perform the duties of such assignment with the highest level of efficiency and professionalism in a manner which is expected of all AMO members and applicants.

## **Section 6:**

When deemed in the best interest of the members during periods of reduced job opportunities, the National Executive Board shall have the authority to impose mandatory maximum duration of assignment or employment on an annual basis which will best distribute job opportunities among all members seeking offshore jobs. In prolonged periods of depressed job opportunities, the National Executive Board shall have the authority to take whatever other steps are necessary in order to maintain the desired ratio of members to jobs.

## **Section 7:**

The National Executive Board has the responsibility to do whatever is necessary, in the best interest of the membership, in order to maintain and increase the level of job opportunities, either on a fleetwide or vessel basis. In order to accomplish this, the National Executive Board may, from time to time, find it necessary to waive any or all of these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules. The National Executive Board, therefore, is vested by the membership of AMO with the authority to do so.

## **Section 8:**

The provision of these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with all applicable laws. If any provision of these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules shall be finally declared invalid or inoperative by any competent authority of the judicial or administrative branch of a state or federal government, the National Executive Committee shall have the authority to suspend the operation of such provision during the period of its invalidity and to substitute in its place and stead a provision which will be in accord with the intent and purpose of the invalid provision while meeting the legal objections to its validity. If any provision of these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules shall be held invalid by operation of law or by any tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of these Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it has been held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

## **Section 9:**

These Offshore (DS) Shipping Rules are incorporated by reference into AMO Contracts, and when inconsistent with any provision of any AMO Contract, such Contract provision shall apply.