



Australian Government

**Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation Authority**

**NOTICE TO MARITIME INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS
AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

NOTICE NO 04/2006

Approved Code of Practice for Manual Handling (Maritime Industry)

1. Section 109(1) of the *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993* (the Act) provides that, for the purpose of giving practical guidance to operators, the Minister may approve codes of practice prepared by the Authority or any other body.
2. On 14 September 2006 the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations approved a code of practice for manual handling for the Australian maritime industry under the Act. The *Approved Code of Practice for Manual Handling (Maritime Industry)* (approved code) is based on the *National Code of Practice for Manual Handling* [NOHSC: 1001 (1990)] and incorporates a number of enhancements and additions to reflect maritime industry conditions.
3. The approved code:
 - (a) provides practical guidance to persons with a duty of care under the Act and associated regulations;
 - (b) should be followed unless there is another means of achieving the same or better standard of health and safety; and
 - (c) is admissible as evidence in proceedings under the Act and associated regulations.
4. Employers are obliged to observe the code and should ensure that their employees and other relevant parties are aware of the practical guidance that the approved code provides relating to the identification, assessment and control of risks arising from manual handling activity in the maritime environment. The approved code is also available from the Seacare website www.seacare.gov.au.
5. Any enquiries relevant to this notice may be directed to the Seacare Management Section.

Seacare Management Section
16 October 2006