

## CHAPTER II

### MASTER – DECK DEPARTMENT

#### Regulation II/1

##### *Basic Principles to be Observed in Keeping a Navigational Watch*

1. Parties shall direct the attention of shipowners, ship operators, masters and watchkeeping personnel to the following principles which shall be observed to ensure that a safe navigational watch is maintained at all times.
2. The master of every ship is bound to ensure that watchkeeping arrangements are adequate for maintaining a safe navigational watch. Under the master's general direction, the officers of the watch are responsible for navigating the ship safely during their periods of duty when they will be particularly concerned with avoiding collision and stranding.
3. The basic principles, including but not limited to the following, shall be taken into account on all ships.
4. **Watch arrangements**
  - (a) The composition of the watch shall at all times be adequate and appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions and shall take into account the need for maintaining a proper look-out.
  - (b) When deciding the composition of the watch on the bridge which may include appropriate deck ratings, the following factors, *inter alia*, shall be taken into account:
    - (i) at no time shall the bridge be left unattended;
    - (ii) weather conditions, visibility and whether there is daylight or darkness;
    - (iii) proximity of navigational hazards which may make it necessary for the officer in charge of the watch to carry out additional navigational duties;
    - (iv) use and operational condition of navigational aids such as radar or electronic position-indicating devices and any other equipment affecting the safe navigation of the ship;
    - (v) whether the ship is fitted with automatic steering;
    - (vi) any unusual demands on the navigational watch that may arise as a result of special operational circumstances.