

SMOKING POLICY

Mermaid has recognized that any harmful effects of 'active' and 'passive' smoking on health are now well documented and substantiated. There is also considerable information on the ways in which smoking and other workplace hazards interact to cause an increase in severity or more rapid onset of diseases.

The combined effect of smoking and workplace hazards on health are reported as follows:

- Workers exposed to ionising radiation (alpha) who are also smokers may have a greater chance of developing lung cancer compared to non-smokers.
- Tobacco smoke can modify the detrimental health effects associated with 'welding fumes'.
- An association between kidney cancer and the workers exposed to substances that occur in crude oil, in production processes, intermediate catalysts and additives or the final products has been found. Bladder cancer has also been associated with the petroleum industry and with cigarette smoking.
- The vibration of any handheld tools causes 'vibration-induced white finger syndrome'. The effect is far worse in smokers than in non-smokers.
- Noise induced hearing loss is also more pronounced in smokers than in non-smokers.

Studies have suggested that passive (involuntary) smoking can cause lung cancer, respiratory dysfunction and irritation to eyes, nose and throat. Increased levels of nicotine and carbon monoxide may lead to heart problems. The effects of passive smoking in the workplace should be controlled by ensuring that:

- smoking is allowed only in designated areas/rooms. Places which are also used by non-smokers (e.g. mess, TV rooms etc.) are not designated as smoking areas.
- smoker's rooms should be isolated from the general air-conditioning and ventilation system and should have its own ventilator/extractor to remove air pollutants as well as enhanced fire prevention systems eg sandboxes for cigarette butts, portable and fixed fire extinguishers, appropriate signage and warnings

No smoking (including E cigarettes) will be allowed on vessels and offshore/onshore units except in designated smoking areas. The designated smoking areas will be assigned by the Master/Site Manager, with prior agreement from MERMAID HSE. In deciding on the designated smoking areas, the Master/Site Manager should take into consideration the comfort and health of nonsmokers and the dangers of passive smoking, which are well documented.

Signs detailing the designated areas must be posted clearly around the vessel/offices and each employee shall be informed of the location of each smoking area during the vessel/site familiarization briefing. Smoking on open decks offshore, if assigned as a designated smoking area, is STRICTLY prohibited while bunkering, within the 500m Zone or when in close proximity to another vessel or asset and at field operators instructions.

Control areas and bridges should be designated as NO SMOKING areas, but it may be acceptable that part of the area, preferably well ventilated, could be allowed for the Watchkeeper to smoke. This shall be at the discretion of the Master, with prior agreement from MERMAID HSE. On shift workers who wish to smoke, should do so during work-breaks and never whilst engaged in their duties.



Paul Whiley
Chief Operating Officer
1st January 2025