

HORIZON Research Project



We are looking for participants in a navigation simulator study

We are seeking deck officers presently serving at sea, or having served at sea recently. You should have at least 12 months of watch keeping experience with a background knowledge of loading / discharging liquid cargoes.

You will be asked to come to Chalmers (Gothenburg) for a period of 8 days (see dates below). You will be paid for taking part in the project, and will be accommodated and provided with meals.

Voyage scenarios, enacted in the simulators, have been designed to allow for observation of the watchkeeping officers. Data collected from these scenarios will be analyzed to determine the effects of fatigue on the cognitive performance of watchkeepers.

Time plan

Participants can sign up to one of the four dates in 2010:

- Run 1: 6th to 13th of April 2010
- Run 2: 7th to 14th of June 2010
- Run 3: 19th to 26th of August 2010
- Run 4: 27th Aug to 4th of Sept 2010

Participation is voluntary and this research project is carried out under the Ethics policy of Chalmers.

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General project information

This EU-sponsored research project is a joint venture between Chalmers Tekniska Högskola (Department of Shipping and Marine Technology), Warsash Maritime Academy (Southampton Solent University), the Stress Research Institute of Stockholm University, together with several other participant companies and authorities.

Background

There are increasing concerns over human safety, environmental damage and commercial loss due to watch officer fatigue. The

UK's Marine Accident Investigation branch (MAIB) report entitled "Bridge Watchkeeping Safety Study (2004)" cites fatigue as a major causal factor in collisions and groundings. There is very little information about how watch patterns, for instance, 6on – 6off and 4on - 8off, have an influence on watchkeeper performance.

In this research project we want to study how different watch systems influence the level of fatigue and performance on watchkeeping officers. We will do this by studying watchkeepers in navigation and cargo simulators operating in north European waters. This will take place over a 7 day 24 hour period, at sea and in port.

This 2½ year research project started in June 2009.

Coordinator Chalmers
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