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| Overview | This standard covers the competence required to contribute to the operation of vessels including the handling (loading, unloading), securing and care of cargo or other operations for which the vessel is purposely designed.  It provides for the development of specialist skills and knowledge associated with the main purpose of the vessel.  **Target Group**  This standard applies to individuals at the support level with responsibility for supporting the implementation of operations on any size vessel working in any operational area. |

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| **Performance criteria**  You must be able to: | 1. select the correct type and quantity of equipment and materials to carry out the operation 2. prepare equipment in accordance with operating practice and safety 3. confirm that equipment is in working order and preparations are complete 4. identify and promptly report any faults or deficiencies in equipment and materials 5. correctly carry out required tasks relating to operations, in accordance with operating practice and safety requirements 6. correctly operate equipment associated with the operations, including appropriate use of communication systems 7. take the appropriate actions in emergency situations 8. correctly secure the equipment and shut down operations on completion of the operation 9. use effective, safe working practices |

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| Knowledge and understanding  You need to know and understand: | 1. vessel construction and operational features 2. the use of deck and other equipment required for operations 3. the safe working practices to be observed during vessel operations 4. the preparations and operations for cargo handling, stowage and carriage 5. statutory regulations and guidelines, organisational instructions and guidance, and vessel contingency plans |

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| Relevant occupations | navigation officer; engineer; deck officer; able seaman |
| Suite | Maritime |
| Key words | operation of vessels; handling; loading; unloading; securing; care of cargo |