1. PURPOSE

To define the procedure to follow prior to all work aloft to ensure safe working conditions.

2. SCOPE

This procedure shall apply to all personnel who are required to work in any location on the vessel more than eight feet above the deck. This shall include the foremast, the mainmast and the stern U-frame. It shall not include the top of the pilothouse, the top of the after steering station, or either crane cab.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Mate to ensure compliance with this procedure and the maintenance of all equipment involved with it.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 While underway, inform the Mate on watch of the need to go aloft, stating the nature of the work involved.

4.2 The Mate on watch shall, if vessel traffic conditions permit, secure both the 3 cm and the 10 cm radars, and visually check that the scanners have stopped. The Mate shall display a sign on each radar stating “Do Not Energize. Person Working Aloft”. If the work to be performed involves either the Foremast or the Mainmast, the Mate shall secure all radio transmitting equipment, including VHF, MF/HF, and Inmarsat-B. This equipment shall be labeled with a sign stating “Do Not Transmit. Persons Working Aloft”. If the Mate on watch is in any doubt about the safety of securing the radars and/or the radios, he shall contact the Chief Mate or the Master. If authority to secure this equipment cannot be obtained, then the work to be performed aloft shall be postponed until such time as it is safe and authorized to do so.

4.3 When permission to go aloft has been obtained, the person going aloft shall properly don a safety harness and fall arresting gear. If climbing the Mainmast, the climber shall hook into the fall-arrest rail at the ladder and shall remain attached to it at all times when aloft. In any case, once the person has reached the work area, he or she will secure themselves with a safety lanyard with safety clips during the time that they are working. Both hands of the climber shall be kept free while ascending and descending the ladders.

4.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Mate to properly train any person going aloft in the proper donning and use of the safety harness and fall arresting gear.
4.5 Once the work aloft has been completed and the person is on deck, he or she shall inform the Mate on watch of the status of the job, so that the Mate may then re-energize the radars and radios.

4.6 No person shall be forced to work aloft.