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SUBJ/COMNAVSAFECEN AFLOAT SAFETY ADVISORY 5-14, SAFETY /DURING WASTE DISPOSAL OPERATION//

REF/A/DESC:DOC/CNO/30MAY2007//

REF/B/DESC:DOC/UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES/23MAR2011//

NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 5100.19E, NAVY SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (SOH) PROGRAM MANUAL FOR FORCES AFLOAT. REF B IS UL 430, STANDARD FOR SAFETY, WASTE DISPOSERS.//

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GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. DURING SURFACE SHIP SAFETY SURVEYS ONBOARD ALL SHIPS WITH WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS, WE HAVE NOTICED INSTALLATIONS OF DANGEROUS DISPOSAL UNITS IN GALLEY DEEP SINKS. THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR SAILORS TO PLACE THEIR HANDS IN THE DISPOSAL WHILE IT IS OPERATING DUE TO THE SIZE OF THE OPENING. THERE IS NO INTERLOCK THAT PREVENTS OPERATION OF THE DISPOSAL SHOULD THE OPERATOR ATTEMPT TO PLACE A HAND DOWN THE DISPOSAL WITHOUT A THROAT GUARD IN THE OPENING AS REQUIRED BY PARA C1902O AND PARA C1905A(2) OF REF A.

2. THE DISPOSAL UNITS ARE NOT INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 28 AND 30 OF REF B. EXAMPLES OF MANUFACTURERS OF THE DISPOSERS WE HAVE SEEN INCLUDE: AMERICAN DELPHI, D.W. BOYD, FABWRIGHT, HOBART, AND INSINGER. IN EACH, THE OPENING OF THE SINK FLANGE IS GREATER THAN 3-5/8 INCHES AND THE DISTANCE FROM THE SINK FLANGE TO THE CUTTING BLADES OR NEAREST MOVING PART IS LESS THAN 1.5 TIMES THE DIAMETER OF THE SINK FLANGE OPENING. ADDITIONALLY, THE INSINGER DISPOSERS RUN FOR 1 MINUTE AFTER DEPRESSING THE STOP BUTTON. THIS ALLOWS FOR A FLUSH OF THE SYSTEM, BUT INCREASES THE POTENTIAL FOR INJURY TO SAILORS.

3. ALL OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS IN PARAGRAPH 1 SHOULD HAVE A SAFETY LIMIT SWITCH AND INTERLOCK COVER. WITHOUT THESE SAFETY DEVICES, WE PLACE OUR SAILORS AT GREATER RISK OF INJURY DUE TO EXPOSED CUTTING BLADES AND MOVING PARTS.

4. AS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION, WE RECOMMEND ALL SHIPS WITH THE WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2 AND OTHERS THAT FIT THE SAME SPECIFICATIONS IMMEDIATELY DANGER TAG THE DISPOSALS AND PLACE OUT OF SERVICE. SHIP'S FORCE SHOULD DISCONTINUE THEIR USE UNTIL THEY HAVE MANUFACTURED AND INSTALLED A GUARD OR PROTECTIVE DEVICE TO PREVENT A SAILOR'S HAND FROM ENTERING THE DISPOSAL WHILE OPERATING BUT STILL ALLOWING WATER AND WASTE TO FLOW INTO THE DRAIN FOR FLUSHING. THE TECHNICAL WARRANT HOLDER IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH CONTRACTORS TO MITIGATE THE SAFETY DISCREPANCY WITH A PERMANENT SOLUTION.

5. SHIPS SHOULD INCLUDE THE INFORMATION ABOVE IN THEIR TRAINING FOR THE CULINARY SPECIALISTS, FOOD SERVICE ATTENDANTS, AND MESS DECK'S MASTERS AT ARMS.//

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