

DECK HAND (5131) TASK LIST

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

1. Cleans deck and deckhouse by washing down decks (exterior and interior) with a biodegradable cleanser and scrubbing with a scrub brush, then hosing down with clean water, cleans and polishes all britework (brass, chrome, stainless steel) with polish and a cloth, cleans windows inside and out using window cleaner and a squeegee, and washes down walls of deckhouses in order to keep boats clean and in good condition.
2. Performs preventative maintenance such as chipping old paint using a chipping hammer, brushing on protective coatings to areas showing rust to prevent further oxidation, applying primer coats using a paint brush, and painting using either a paint brush or a roller to the hull from the water line to the main deck and super structure which have urgent need between scheduled dry dock maintenance, in order to keep boats in good repair and minimize deterioration.
3. Cleans painting utensils, such as trays, rollers, and brushes using solvents, soap, and water in order to keep painting utensils in good condition.
4. Performs small mechanical repairs and maintenance to assigned vessel such as oil change, fuel filter replacement, and hoses (e.g. hydraulic, oil, coolant) belts, or pumps.

SECURING AND TOWING OPERATIONS

5. Lifts lines (braided lines, laid lines, or wire rope) from deck of vessel, either manually or with a boat hook, and secures lines to cleats, bollards, or bitts (fixtures for securing lines on docks or vessels) either by placing over the fixture or by throwing the line to another deckhand or other person in order to tie up the vessel to the dock or another vessel such as a tugboat to a work barge.
6. Places tension on the lines after securing to cleats, bollards, or bitts by manually tightening the line tension, then securing using a capstan (machine that consists of a vertical drum which can be rotated and around which line is turned) or a power winch in order to maintain proper tension on lines between vessel to vessel or vessel to dock.
7. Operates small utility boat such as a tender, skiff, refuse collection boat to all of the docking areas in order to deliver or retrieve punts, visually inspects floats, public landing, and towing impound vessels, and transporting harbor department staff for inspection of docks or scientific staff for collection of water, sediment, or plankton samples.
8. Climbs dock ladders, moves from vessel to vessel including barges and other utility boats in inland and near coastal waters and handles lines on work barges, floats, punts, and skiffs while moving on wet and rolling decks, handling heavy wet mooring lines in order to assist maintenance and construction crews working on pilings, under wharves, and other port facilities or assisting scientific crews to deploy and retrieve marine equipment.
9. Rigs lines (construction and placement), by tying up a variety of configurations used in towing, such as tow bridles, tow lashings, and mooring lines by splicing, tying knots such as bowline, clove hitch, square knots, round turn, and two half hitches in 1/4" to 1 1/2" lines in order to have the proper rigging available for use in towing vessels with different rigging requirements.
10. Creates splices such as eye splices, short splices, and long splices (the only acceptable safe splices) using a pocket knife for cutting, and a fid (a wooden wedge used to spread open the space between the strands), in lines 1/4" to 1 1/2" in diameter, and the appropriate technique for the type of line being spliced in order to make up new lines or repair damaged lines.
11. Watches anchor lines and makes adjustments to anchor line or chain accordingly when necessary in order to ensure anchor is securely set and not fouled or snagged when anchoring boats, barges, placing buoys, tying barges to docks and in anchor retrieval activities.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

12. Performs safety inspections such as checking the amount of water (sea or rain water) in the bilges of barges, floats, punts, skiffs, impound vessels, and public landing barges by measuring with a measuring stick to determine how full the bilge is; checks for contaminants such as oil or fuel;

secures tow boat mooring lines to vessel requiring service; lifts dewatering pump (weight approx. 80 lbs.) from the tow boat to the vessel; if no contaminants, pumps out the bilges of these vessels, and replenishes fuel in pump as required; and if contaminated, tows to construction and maintenance yard and pumps into approved containers for hazardous wastes in order to comply with safety regulations in the harbor.

13. Stows lines (usually composition of synthetic fibers) by storing the lines properly, such as coiling, flaking (a figure 8 configuration), removing kinks and bends, placing under decks by the bulwark, away from chemicals and direct sunlight, and out walk ways in order to prevent deterioration and extend life of the lines and prevent safety hazards.
14. Tends (watches) lines, making sure working lines do not become fouled, torn, snagged or moved in any way unless directed to do so by the boat operator in order to ensure that working lines are not caught or jammed creating a safety hazard or damage to the vessel.

ASSISTS WITH NAVIGATING VESSEL

15. Maneuvers vessels by steering, using the helm, under direction of the boat operator, in order to transport materials, work barges, pilots, and other workers to different work sites in inland and near coastal waters.
16. Reads signals such as weather warning flags, shapes, pennants, understands lights and horn signals for small craft, gale, storm, and hurricane warnings which are posted by the Coast Guard Station or designated Harbor Master and other key positions in the harbor; and verbally informs boat operator in order to operate safely while aboard a tugboat or other vessel in the water in or around the harbor.
17. Stands watch by walking decks of moving vessels and looking fore, aft, port, and starboard for obstructions, floating objects, and surface craft such as loose pilings, lines, sail boarders, jet skiers, and construction or other debris and verbally informs boat operator of exact location, direction of approach, and vessels approximate distance from objects in order to avoid potential safety hazards and collisions.
18. Aids Port Pilots while they are embarking or disembarking to and from vessels by watching for potentially hazardous sea conditions such as wakes from other vessels, large swells, position of boat to ship, and condition of pilot ladder; gives instructions to ship crew members for positioning, raising, and lowering jacob's ladder (pilot ladder) or gangway; steadies ladder and provides initial boost to pilot for ascending ladder, watches for pilot's safe ascent and/or descent from ladder; and takes hold of pilot's hand to pull on board the pilot boat in inclement weather (choppy, rough, and rolling seas) in order to ensure pilot's safety during all phases of embarking and debarking.
19. Reads navigational aids such as a compass, fathometer, radar, buoys, and tide charts and listens for safety sound signals such as horns in order to give boat operator information verbally on the location of other objects shown on radar, position of other crafts, headings of vessels, and depth of channel, and recommend appropriate courses and course changes while navigating in heavy fog and otherwise inclement weather.

OTHER

20. Writes entries in ship's log such as time of departure and return, work performed, and personnel aboard in order to document activities for each shift.
21. Drives Port Pilots, other personnel, or equipment in an automobile or cargo vehicle to various work sites within Los Angeles County.
22. Operate hydraulic cranes, winches, and booms when deploying and retrieving scientific equipment, when transferring heavy equipment from refuse collection vessel to dock or vice versa, when setting regulatory buoys, or assisting dock ladder crew repairing safety ladders.