

E

ear protector; a device protecting ears against noise

earth; to connect with the ground

earthing; an act done to prevent static electricity discharge when connecting or disconnecting cargo hoses

earthing cable; a cable used to earth an object

ease; freedom from difficulty, slack

ease a line; to slacken a rope, to lessen the hold upon the line

ease away; to slacken the sail

ease her; to slow down, reduce the revolutions of the engine

Ease the helm!; an order to bring the helm slowly amidships

eastward; moving towards east

ebb; see: ebb tide

ebb tide; the reflux of the tide, the flowing back of the tide as the water returns to the sea

ECDIS; Electronic Chart Display Information System

echo sounder; an instrument for determining depth of water or locating objects at certain depth

economies of scale; reductions in the cost of making and/or selling products that are made possible because the business is very large or becomes larger

ecosystem; a natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms functioning together in the environment

edge; a brink or verge, e.g. the edge of a cliff

E.D.H.; see: Efficient Deck Hand

Efficient Deck Hand; a senior rating or seaman

EHF; see: extremely high frequency

elasticity; ability of a material to return to its original form and size without permanent deformation

eliminate; to remove or take out

emaciated; very thin and weak, usually because of illness or extreme hunger

embankment; raised dike or quay to hold the waters of the sea or river

embark; to come on board the vessel (referring to passengers, crew and the pilot)

embarkation; going on board the vessel

emergency; a state of sudden and unexpected danger requiring immediate action

emergency alarm; a device for giving a warning in the event of danger to the ship

emergency anchorage; an area of the sea used by ships in dangerous situations, e.g. fire on board

emergency exit; way out in dangerous situations

emergency fire pump; a pump which is used when the main supply fails

emergency fire pump compartment; a room where the emergency fire pump is located

emergency full speed; maximum full speed

emergency plan; 1. a plan in the event of a serious or dangerous accident, which happens suddenly or unexpectedly and needs immediate action 2. the general arrangement plan providing information on items such as escape routes and safety equipment

emergency shutdown; a button or a switch to be used in case of sudden necessity to stop a cargo operation

emergency signal; alarm signal used in dangerous situations

emergency steering gear; steering gear used in case of main steering breakdown
emergency stop; see: emergency shutdown
emergency tiller; a lever fitted to the rudder used in an emergency
emergency towing-off wire; a wire needed in the event of fire or other emergency and used by a tug to move the ship away from the berth
emission; an act or event during which gas, heat, light, etc. is sent out
employ; to offer work for wages, hire or engage the services of another person
employee; a person working for wages or a salary
employer; a person offering work to other people for a salary or wages
employment; the state of being employed by a company or other people, occupation
enact; to change something (a proposal) into a law
enclosure; 1. an attachment to a letter 2. a closed area
encountered; faced, met accidentally
end plates; flat steel plates attached to each end of the cylinder block adding rigidity to the block and providing a mounting surface for some parts
endorse; to sign one's name on documents, to verify by signing the document (e.g. a B/L)
engine failure; engine breakdown
engine performance; engine operation and functioning with regard to effectiveness
English Channel; the area of sea which separates England from France
ensure; to make sure
entangle; to cause something to become caught in something such as a net or ropes
enter; 1. to go into the port 2. to write remarks in the log book
enterprise; 1. a business unit, a company 2. project
entrance; way into (e.g.) the port
entrance channel; a port canal leading to the port
entrance lock; a lock at the entrance to the canal or port
entry; recording something in the log-book or in the register
environment; surroundings, nature, natural habitat
epilepsy; disorder of the central nervous system of a person
EPIRB; Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon
equipment; gear, rigging
equip with; to fit with, furnish with, provide with, rig
equivalent; equal in value, measure and force
erode; to slowly reduce or destroy
error; mistake
erupt; to explode or burst out suddenly
escape; to get away, slip away
estimated time of berthing; expected time of berthing, also: ETB
estimated time of departure; expected time of departure, also: ETD
estuary; the wide part of a river at the place where it joins the sea
ETB; see: estimated time of berthing
ETD; see: estimated time of departure
evacuate; to remove the persons from an endangered area
evaporate; to give off moisture

even keel; bow and stern of the ship on the same level
excessive; too much
exempt; free from obligation e.g. to pay taxes or pilotage fee
exhaust gas; the waste gas from an engine
exhaust gas boiler; a boiler which produces steam when the engine is running
exhaust ventilation; a vent (narrow opening) which sends the fumes and gases out
expansion joint; a joint which connects pipes and allows for a certain degree of movement
expected time of arrival; estimated time of arrival, ETA
expected time of berthing; estimated time of berthing, ETB
expected time of departure; estimated time of departure, ETD
exposure; the act of subjecting someone to an influencing experience or the disclosure of something secret
extinguish; to put out e.g. a fire
extinguisher; a device for putting out fires, usually portable
extremely high frequency; any frequency between 30–300 gigahertz, also: EHF

F

failure; breakdown in operation of mechanism, a default (esp. of a rudder)
fairlead; fixture that ensures a rope/line leading in a desired direction, often used to reduce friction, (Am.) chock
fairway; navigable part of a waterway
fairway speed; mandatory speed in the fairway
fan; a ventilator
fast; 1. made fast, secured 2. quick
fasten; to fix, to attach
fatigue; physical or mental exhaustion, weariness, esp. of metal, engine parts etc.
fault; defect, flaw, error, mistake
faulty; defective, imperfect
feed water; the water that is supplied to the boiler and is converted into steam
feeder; an object that leads to or supplies a larger thing of the same type
feeder barge carrier; a barge carrier that transports barges to a major port
feeder ship; a container vessel that carries containers from a local port to a major (hub) port and vice versa
fender; a piece of timber, rubber, synthetic material, or a bundle of ropes hung over the ship's side to lessen the shock or prevent chafing between the vessel and the pier or another vessel
ferry; see: ferry boat
ferry boat; a vessel for transporting passengers and vehicles across a river, channels or other body of water, also: ferry
fertilizer; (a type of cargo carried by sea) any substance, such as manure or a mixture of nitrates, added to soil or water to increase its productivity
FEU; Forty Equivalent Unit
filter; a device to remove solids from liquids or gases
fin; a horizontal, often adjustable wing appended to the underwater part of the hull for damping the roll of a surface vessel to stabilize it

fine filter; a device for removing secondary, very small impurities from the lube oil, with a replaceable element

fire alarm; a device for giving a warning in the event of fire

fire extinguisher; a portable container usually filled with special chemicals for putting out a fire

fire control plan; the entire system of detecting and combatting fire

fire fighting equipment; fire fighting gear

fire hose; a special heavy-duty hose (flexible tube) for use in fighting destructive fires

fire monitor; a mounting for a nozzle that allows a stream of water to be directed

fire party; a group of fire fighters

fire prevention; practice of measures and regulations preventing the outbreak of fire

fire watch; an inspection of the vessel by a crew member going around at certain intervals to prevent and detect any fires on board mandatory in vessels carrying more than 36 passengers

fire-alarm; a signal warning that a fire has broken out

firm; 1. a company 2. rigid, stiff

first aid; emergency treatment given before regular medical services arrive

first aid outfit; first aid kit

first aid satchel; a rectangular bag usually made of leather or cloth for carrying first aid equipment

first mate; Chief Officer

first watch; the watch from 20.00 to 24.00 hours

fish hydrolysate; fish carcasses

fishing lure; an artificial insect or other small animal which is put on the end of a fishing line to attract fish

fishing vessel; a ship engaged in catching fish

fitting; 1. equipment, furnishings or accessories in a building or onboard 2. an element used for branching, change of direction or closing a pipe

fix; a ship's position at a given time which is determined by the intersection of lines of position representing bearings of the fixed objects identifiable on the chart

fixed pitch propeller; opposite to a controllable pitch propeller, propeller with fixed blades

fixed rate; an established loading rate or discharging rate

flag state; a state having ships registered under its own flag

flame; light rising from a fire or burning gas

flame arrester; see: flame trap

flame trap; a perforated metal cover over an opening or vent to prevent the passage of flame

flammable; likely to burn easily and quickly

flange; a radially projecting collar or rim on an object (e.g. a pipe) for locating or strengthening it for attaching it to an object

flash; a sudden burst of flame, light or heat

flask; a bottle-shaped container with a narrow neck

flaw; a defect, an error

fleet; all ships both naval and commercial, all ships of a company

flexible; able to bend without breaking, elastic

float; to stay on the surface of a liquid

flo-flo; see: float on-float off

float on-float off; a system of loading barges on to the barge carriers

flood; 1. a great overflow of water 2. the rise or flowing in of the tide, rising of the water level
flooding; major uncontrolled flow or penetration of seawater into the vessel
fly a flag; to navigate under the national flag of a country (e.g. the ship was flying the French flag)
flywheel; a heavy wheel attached to the crankshaft, it stores up the energy during the power event and releases it during the remaining events of the operating cycle
foam monitor; a fire fighting equipment with a revolving foam gun installed on a flat deck
foam; chemically produced substance that smothers the flames on a burning liquid
foam extinguisher; a portable container filled with special chemicals for putting out a fire
FOB; Free on board, delivery of goods on board ship free of charge (see INCOTERMS)
fo'c'sle; see: forecastle
foc'sle; see: forecastle
fog; a cloudlike mass of water droplets or ice crystals near the surface of the earth, which reduces visibility, visibility less than 1000 m
fog bank; see: fog patch
fog patch; a stratum or layer of fog as seen from a distance
foggy; thick with fog
foghorn; a deep, loud horn for sounding warning to ships in foggy weather
foil; a very thin sheet of metal
food chain; a series of living things which are connected because each group of things eats the group below it in the series
food web; a system of food
fore; the forward part of a vessel
fore and aft; located along or parallel to a line from the stem to the stern
forecast; 1. to predict e.g. the weather 2. to calculate something in advance
forecastle; a superstructure at the bow of a vessel used as a shelter for stores, machinery or as sailors' quarters
forepeak; the extreme forward part of the interior of the hull, space between the collision bulkhead and the stem plating
forward; towards the bow or front of a vessel
forward breast line; a line led from the front part of the ship to a bollard on the quay to prevent the bow from moving away from the pier
forward draft; see: forward draught
forward draught; the depth the vessel's bow is drawing, also: forward draft
forward spring; a line led from the forward part of the ship to a bollard on the quay to prevent the vessel from moving ahead or astern
foul anchor; an anchor which has its own cable twisted around it or has fouled an obstruction
fouling; the act of micro-organisms settling on objects submerged in water
foul weather; bad weather, heavy weather
foul wind; unfavourable wind
fraction; a part broken off, a portion
fracture; a crack or a break on a surface
frame; 1. part of the hull construction 2. a border or case for enclosing something
freeboard; 1. on a cargo vessel the distance between the uppermost deck considered fully watertight and the official load line 2. that portion of the side of a hull which is above the water

freezing drizzle; slight freezing rain

freezing point; the temperature at which a liquid freezes, e.g. the freezing point of water is 0 degrees C or 32 degrees F

freezing rain; rain which changes from liquid state into ice on cold surfaces

freight; money paid for transporting goods by sea, air or land

freight market; a market for cargoes carried on board ships

freight rate; 1. amount of compensation charged for the carriage of cargo either per tonne or per cubic metre or cubic foot 2. cargo carried on a ship

freight ton; a unit of volume or weight used for charging or measuring freight in shipping. It depends on the type of material being shipped but is often taken as 40 cubic feet, 1 cubic metre, or 1000 kilograms

freighter; a vessel used mainly for carrying cargo, a cargo ship

fresh water generator; a device which distills freshwater from seawater

friction; the force which makes it difficult for objects or gases to slide along each other

frostbite; injury which is caused by the freezing of the skin tissue or body part

frostnip; injury which is caused by the freezing of the top layers of the skin

frozen cargo; refrigerated cargo carried at lower temperatures

fruit carrier; a vessel for the carriage of fruit

fuel; combustible matter such as diesel oil, fuel oil, coal or gas burnt to produce heat or power

fuel consumption; the amount of fuel used per certain units

fuel cost; the cost of fuel

fuel-driven; propelled by using fuel

fuel efficiency; being economic by minimising the difference between fuel input and movement output

fuel injector; a device with a nozzle, or several small nozzles, through which fuel passes at high velocity

fuel monitoring; to watch and check the consumption of fuel

fuel oil; a fraction obtained from petroleum distillation, either as a distillate or a residue, and used in an engine for the generation of power

fuel oil sludge; part of the remaining particulars and water after fuel purification

fuel tank; a hold in a tanker for carrying crude oil and its products

fuel valve; a valve controlling the injection of fuel

Full ahead!; a standard engine order indicating that the engine should operate using the maximum revolutions forward

Full astern!; a standard engine order indicating that the engine should operate in reverse gear at maximum speed

full speed; highest possible speed of a vessel

fume; unpleasant, harmful and toxic gas or smoke emitted from exhaust pipes, produced by fires, chemicals, fuel etc.

function; 1. to operate 2. a kind of activity