

Understanding Your Role as a Shipyard Competent Person

A shipyard competent person (SCP) ensures safe working conditions at shipyards by determining whether a space is safe for workers to enter or perform hot work. Prior to serving as an SCP, an individual must meet the requirements of [29 CFR 1915.7](#).

Reducing or Eliminating Workplace Hazards

Employers are responsible for controlling and correcting any hazards identified before work begins.

A SCP must be able to recognize and evaluate worker exposures to hazardous substances or other unsafe conditions, such as:

- Damaged or missing access ladders or stairs;
- Electrical hazards;
- Insufficient lighting; and
- Potential sources for slips, trips, and falls.



Example of damaged access ladder.

SCPs must also be proficient in many other tasks, including:

- Inspecting, testing and evaluating spaces for oxygen content, flammability, and toxicity.
- Initiating the use of suitable ventilation where unsafe atmospheric conditions exist.
- Monitoring spaces, as often as necessary, to ensure safe atmospheric conditions are maintained during work.
- Directing the use of appropriate equipment and components in confined and enclosed spaces, or surrounding areas, where there is the potential for flammable atmospheres.
- Understanding when, where and for how long the posting of fire watches is necessary.
- Inspecting structural voids and, if necessary, testing for the presence of flammable liquids or vapors before hot work begins.
- Carrying out NFPA-certified Marine Chemist instructions and knowing when to call them.
- Maintaining records of tests, inspections, and operations performed, including test results and any instructions.

See the [Evaluating Shipyard Competent Person Programs](#) fact sheet to learn more about the qualifications, training, and duties of a SCP.



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For more information:

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