

Change #0011 – effective 10 Oct 07  
Duck Pond Precautions/Requirements

**Note: Paragraph 19.A.07.h was removed via interim change #0004. The remainder of 19.A.07 was renumbered accordingly. HOWEVER, paragraph 19.A.07.i is new and is being added by this interim change as is the definition of “Duck Pond”. For ease of placement in your EM 385-1-1, replace current 19.A.07 in its entirety with the following:**

19.A.07 Safe practices.

- a. Obstructing cables/lines that cross waterways between floating plant or between plant and mooring shall be clearly marked.
- b. On all floating plant where people are quartered, one person shall be on watch at all times to guard against fire and provide watch person service. In lieu of a watch person, an automatic fire detection and fire and emergency warning system(s) may be used.
- c. Provisions shall be made to prevent accumulation of fuel and grease on floors and decks and in bilges.
- d. Swimming shall be prohibited for all personnel on floating plant and other marine locations, except certified divers in the performance of their duties, unless necessary to prevent injury or loss of life.
- e. A person in the water shall be considered as a person overboard and appropriate action shall be taken.
- f. When barriers or blanks are installed in piping systems as a lock-out procedure, positive means (such as protruding handles) shall be used to easily recognize their presence. All barriers shall be marked (including name of installer, name of inspector, and date of installation) and accounted for prior to installation and subsequent to removal.
- g. Deck loading will be limited to safe capacity. Loads will be secured and holdbacks or rings will be provided to secure loose equipment during rough weather.

h. Safeguards such as barriers, curbs, or other structures shall be provided to prevent front-end loaders, bulldozers, trucks, backhoes, track hoes, and similar operating equipment on floating equipment from falling into the water. > See also 16.F.06.

i. Projection and tripping hazards shall be removed, identified with warning signs, or distinctly marked with safety yellow.

j. Deck cargo carried on fuel barges shall be placed on dunnage.

k. When two or more pieces of floating plant are being used as one unit, they shall be securely fastened together to prevent openings between them or the openings shall be covered or guarded.

l. When floating plant are configured for stationary work, a competent person shall identify any openings between decks of stationary vessels or vessels and other structures that create enclosed water areas (duck ponds) into which personnel can fall. If such openings are detected, means shall be taken to protect personnel from the hazard.

(1) When practical, duck pond protection will consist of guardrails, nets or other physical barriers to prevent employees from falling into the openings.

(2) When physical barriers are not feasible, ladders and life rings shall be installed in each enclosed water area to allow personnel to self-rescue. Ladders may be a rigid type or Jacob's ladder, and must be securely anchored to the vessel or structure. Life rings shall have a sufficient length of rope to them to float on the water surface and the rope shall be securely anchored to the vessel. The number and placement of ladders and life rings shall be sufficient so that the maximum swimming distance to them is no more than 25 feet. Ladders and life rings may be retracted during reconfiguration or movement of plant.

m. All anchor points shall be clearly identified and shall be inspected prior to applying a load or putting cables under tension. Anchor points not structurally sound shall be cut out, removed, and/or welded over to preclude usage. Visual checks and "all clear" warnings shall be made prior to tensioning cables.

n. Provisions shall be made to protect persons being transported by water from the elements.

o. Plant fleeting areas will be designated in which all idle plant shall be moored. Such areas shall have warning buoys, signs, and lights in prominent locations.

p. The Contractor, or for Government-conducted operations, the GDA, shall provide information to the local USCG Office identifying the marine activity and hazards.

q. Open or pelican hooks may be used for lifting anchor buoys.

ADD TO GLOSSARY:

**Duck Pond:** Openings between stationary vessels or vessels and other structures that create enclosed water areas (duck ponds) into which personnel could fall.