IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS AMENDED

Merchant Shipping Notice 144

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters, Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations

The Directorate reminds all concerned to the entry into force on 1 July 2018, of new provisions to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers.

Regulation V/2 Passenger Ships Training

The revised STCW Convention requires that masters, officers, ratings and other personnel employed or engaged on board passenger ships shall meet the mandatory minimum requirements for training and certification. The amendments introduced the requirement for passenger training and familiarisation to other personnel providing direct service to passengers on board passenger ships.

- **Familiarisation**

All persons, other than passengers, employed or engaged on board passenger ships shall complete emergency familiarisation training appropriate to their capacity, duties and responsibilities as specified in section A-V/2, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.

- **Safety Training**

Personnel providing direct service to passengers in passenger spaces onboard passenger ships shall complete the additional safety training as specified in section A-V/2, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.

- **Certificate in Crowd Management**

Seafarers who are designated on the muster list to assist passengers in emergency situations on board passenger ships shall complete approved training in crowd management, as specified in section A-V/2, paragraph 3 of the STCW Code.

- **Certificate in Crisis Management and Human Behaviour**

Seafarers who are designated responsibilities on the muster list for the safety of passengers in emergency situations shall complete approved training in crisis management and human behaviour, as specified in section A-V/2, paragraph 4 of the STCW Code.

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- **Certificate in Passenger Safety, Cargo Safety and Hull Integrity**

Every person assigned immediate responsibility for embarking and disembarking passengers, for loading, discharging or securing cargo, or for closing hull openings on board ro-ro passenger ships, shall complete approved training in passenger safety, cargo safety and hull integrity, as specified in section A-V/2, paragraph 5 of the STCW Code.

- **Refresher Training**

Masters, officers, ratings and other personnel, who are required to be trained in crowd management, crisis management & human behaviour and passenger safety, cargo safety & hull integrity shall, at intervals not exceeding five years, undertake appropriate refresher training or be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five years.

Regulation V/4 Training for seafarers engaged on ships operating in polar waters
The amended STCW Convention requires that masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch employed or engaged on board ships to which the Polar Code applies shall be in possession of related training certification. The latest amendments to the Convention introduced two tiers of training:

- **Basic Training**

Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch shall hold a certificate in basic training for ships operating in polar waters and meet the standard of competence specified in Section A-V/4, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.

- **Advanced Training**

Masters and chief mates shall hold a certificate in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters and meet the standard of competence specified in Section A-V/4, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.
Every candidate for a certificate in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters shall:

1. Meet the requirements for certification in basic training for ships operating in polar waters; and

2. Have at least two months of approved seagoing service in the deck department at management level or while performing watchkeeping duties at the operational level, within polar waters or other equivalent approved seagoing service.

- **Transitional provisions**

Until 1 July 2020, seafarers with approved seagoing service in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018, shall:

Basic Training

1. Have completed approved seagoing service in polar waters performing duties in the deck department at operational or management level, for a period of at least three months during the preceding five years, or

2. Have successfully completed a training course meeting the training guidance established by the IMO for ships operating in polar waters.

Advanced Training

1. Have completed approved seagoing service in polar waters performing duties in the deck department at management level, for a period of at least three months during the preceding five years, or

2. Have successfully completed a training course meeting the training guidance established by the IMO for ships operating in polar waters and having completed approved seagoing service, performing duties in the deck department at management level, for a period of at least two months in total during the preceding five years.

Applications for the issue of a certificate of proficiency in basic or advanced training for ships operating in polar waters are to be submitted on the appropriate form TM/MSD/SCU 030.

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Attention is also drawn to the amendments that came into force on 1 January 2017 with regards to personnel engaged on board ships subject to the IGF Code.

Regulation V/3 Training for Seafarers Engaged on Ships Subject to the IGF Code

The amended Convention requires that masters, officers, ratings and other personnel employed and engaged on ships subject to the IGF Code shall meet the mandatory minimum requirements for training and certification.

- **Familiarisation**

All seafarers serving on board ships subject to the IGF Code shall, prior to being assigned shipboard duties, receive appropriate ship and equipment specific familiarisation as specified in Regulation I/14, paragraph 1.5.

- **Basic Training**

Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board ships subject to the IGF Code shall hold a certificate

in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, in accordance with provisions of section A-V/3, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.

Seafarers who have been issued with a certificate of proficiency in basic or advanced training for liquefied gas tankers are to be considered as having met the requirements specified in section A-V/3, paragraph 1 for basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

- **Advanced Training**

Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on ships subject to the IGF Code shall hold a certificate in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, in accordance with provisions of section A-V/3 paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.

Seafarers who have been issued with a certificate of proficiency in advanced training for liquefied gas tankers are to be considered as having met the requirements specified in section A-V/3, paragraph 2 for advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, provided they also have:

- A certificate of proficiency in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code;
- Completed at least one month of approved seagoing service that includes a minimum of three bunkering operations on board ships subject to the IGF Code. Two of the three bunkering operations may be replaced by approved simulator training on bunkering operations; and
- Completed sea going service of three months in the previous five years on board ships subject to the IGF Code, tankers carrying as cargo fuels covered by the IGF Code or ships using gases or low flashpoint fuel as fuel.

- **Refresher Training**

Seafarers holding certificates of proficiency in basic or advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code shall, at intervals not exceeding five years, undertake appropriate refresher training or are to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five years.

Applications for the issue of a certificate of proficiency in basic or advanced training for ships subject to the IGF Code are to be submitted on the appropriate form TM/MSD/SCU 031.

Additional Information

Original certificates should always be readily available on board as evidence that training has been completed.

All enquiries related to the application of the STCW Convention, should be addressed to the Seafarer Department within the Merchant Shipping Directorate on *stcw.tm@transport.gov.mt*

Merchant Shipping Directorate 22 June 2018