

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

STCW.7/Circ.21
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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS
(STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

Advice for port State control officers, recognized organizations and recognized security organizations on action to be taken in cases where seafarers do not carry certification required in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code after 1 January 2014

1 The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping, at its first session (17 to 21 February 2014), reviewed progress with the implementation of certification requirements related to security-awareness training and training for seafarers with designated security duties, in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code by Parties.

2 The Sub-Committee noted that the transitional provision under section A-VI/6, for those seafarers who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012 ended on 1 January 2014.

3 The Sub-Committee was concerned that, after the end of the transitional period on 1 January 2014, there may be practical difficulties for seafarers to obtain necessary security certification required in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code.

4 The Sub-Committee was particularly concerned about the fact that large numbers of seafarers were reportedly unable to have access to approved training courses or unable to be issued certification of security related training in accordance with regulation VI/6 and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6.

5 The Sub-Committee further noted the current difficulties faced by the shipping community in implementing the amended provisions of regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention.

6 The Sub-Committee therefore urged all concerned, in particular STCW Parties and Administrations, to do their utmost to ensure that certificates on security awareness training and training for seafarers with designated security duties are issued, in accordance with the requirements of regulation VI/6 and section A-VI/6, as soon as possible.

7 The Sub-Committee recognized that seafarers on board ships may not yet hold certification in security awareness training or training on designated security duties, required by regulation VI/6 and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6, and agreed that until 1 July 2015, in cases where a seafarer does not hold certification in security awareness training or training on designated security duties, in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code, it would be sufficient to accept compliance with section 13 of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

8 The Sub-Committee urged port State control authorities to take the above factors into consideration when exercising control procedures in article X and regulation I/4 of the STCW Convention.

9 In this context, the Sub-Committee recommended that Administrations should inform their port State control authorities that, until 1 July 2015, even if a seafarer's certification with regard to the security awareness training or training for seafarers with designated security duties in regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention, as amended, and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code, is not in accordance with the STCW Convention, as amended, it would be sufficient to accept compliance with section 13 of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

10 The Sub-Committee further recommended that Administrations should also inform recognized organizations and recognized security organizations issuing ISM Code and ISPS Code certification under International Convention of Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS), as amended, that, until 1 July 2015, if a seafarer's certification is not in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention, as amended, and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code, it would be sufficient to accept compliance with section 13 of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

11 Member Governments are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control officers and recognized organizations and recognized security organizations.
