

GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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Shipping Guidance Notice – 051

STCW Convention regulation VI/6

This Notice should be read in conjunction with SGN 045, 047 & 048 and serves to provide further guidance.

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers and Classification Societies

References:

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW Convention

International Ship and Port facilities Security Code (ISPS Code)

IMO STCW.7 / Circ.16 / Circ. 21 / Circ. 22

The first session of the new IMO Sub Committee on Human Element, Training and Watch-keeping was held from 17 to 21 February 2014. Included in the session agenda was maritime security certification

The STCW Convention required all seafarers to hold a maritime security certificate as of 1 January 2014. Several countries stated that it was very difficult to have the certificates issued in due time and, consequently, the Sub-Committee agreed that there was a need for flexibility until 1 July 2015. The Sub-Committee urged the member States to inform their respective port State control authorities and seek a pragmatic solution to this problem until 1 July 2015.

The guidance recommends that, until 1 July 2015, relevant training under section 13 (Training, drills and exercises on ship security) of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code should be accepted as being equivalent to that required under the STCW Convention and Code.

The Gibraltar Maritime Administration accepts the recommendations of the IMO Sub Committee.

Richard Montado
Maritime Administrator

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ANNEX 1

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STCW.7/Circ.21

25 February 2014

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.

ANNEX 2

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STCW.7/Circ.22

25 February 2014

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 clarifying training and certification requirements for ship security officers and seafarers with designated security duties

1 The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping, at its first session (17 to 21 February 2014), noted with concern that officers who have completed training as ship security officer (SSO) meeting the competence requirements of section A-VI/5 are reportedly being required to provide evidence of having attended training in competency for security awareness and training for seafarers with designated security duties and obtain the associated certificates. Also, seafarers holding certificates for seafarers with designated security duties are reportedly being required to provide evidence of having training in security awareness.

2 The Sub-Committee noted that, in addition to security-related familiarization, the security related training according to the STCW Convention and Code, leading to certification, consists of three levels of training: security-awareness training, training for seafarers with designated security duties and training for the SSO, with the training for SSO being the highest level. The Sub-Committee recognized that the training requirements for the three levels of security related training were drafted so that the higher levels of training would include the competencies of the lower levels of training.

3 The Sub-Committee agreed that SSO training encompasses the competence requirements of section A-VI/6, and therefore, holders of SSO certificates should not be required to undergo further training and obtain certification under section A-VI/6 related to competency for security awareness and training for seafarers with designated security duties.

4 The Sub-Committee further agreed that training for seafarers with designated security duties encompasses the competence requirements of section A-VI/6, paragraph 6, and therefore, holders of certificates for seafarers with designated security duties according to regulation VI/6, paragraph 5, should not be required to undergo further training and obtain certification related to competency for security awareness.

5 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, recognized organizations and recognized security organizations.