



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-7/2013/1

3/2014

FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies

SUBJECT: REMINDER FOR SECURITY RELATED TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “COP” – Certificate of Proficiency
- “CSO” – Company Security Officer
- “ISPS Code” – International Ship and Port Facility Security Code implemented through chapter XI-2 Special measures to enhance maritime security in SOLAS
- “PSC” – Port State Control
- “RO” – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)
- “RSO” – Recognized Security Organization as defined by the ISPS Code
- “SMS” – Safety Management System as defined by the ISM Code
- “SSO” – Ship Security Officer
- “SSP” – Ship Security Plan
- “STCW” – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

The term “Administration” shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this marine circular is to remind ship owners, operators and managers that following the 2010 Manila Amendments, security-related training is required for all seafarers employed or engaged on a seagoing vessel which is required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code.

REFERENCES:

- (a) STCW, 1978 and the STCW Code as amended
- (b) IMO MSC/Circ.918
- (c) IMO Resolutions STCW-CONF.2-33 and .2-34 (Manila amendments)
- (d) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-5/2011/1
- (e) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-5/2011/12/2 (Section 7.7)
- (f) IMO STCW.7/Circ.21

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all Tuvalu flagged vessels which are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code.

CONTENTS:

1. Onboard Security-Related Familiarization Training

- 1.1. Seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship are to receive security-related familiarization training before being assigned to any shipboard duties.
- 1.2. The security-related familiarization training shall include the:
 - 1.2.1. reporting of a security incident such as piracy or armed robbery; and
 - 1.2.2. knowledge of procedures to follow when they recognise a security threat and participate in security related emergency and contingency procedural exercises.
- 1.3. Such training shall be conducted by the SSO or an equally qualified person and take into account the guidance given in STCW Code B, Section B-VI/6.
- 1.4. Documentary evidence of such familiarisation training conducted shall be kept onboard under the ship's safety management system and is available for review by proper authorities and ISM Code auditors.
- 1.5. Owners / Operators / Managers may amend the SSP accordingly to include the requirements of this, or include the requirements of this onboard training into the SMS of the vessel.
- 1.6. Managers should inform RO / RSO of any amendments made to SSP or SMS.

2. Minimum Requirements for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties

- 2.1. Seafarers designated to perform security duties, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery, shall meet the standards of training set forth in section A-VI/6, para 6 to 8 of the STCW Code.
- 2.2. On completion of this training, the seafarer should be issued with an STCW COP and be able to meet the competence standards given in table A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code.
- 2.3. Transitional provisions:
 - 2.3.1. Until 1 January 2014, seafarers who commenced seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012 shall be able to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code by:
 - 2.3.1.1. approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel with designated security duties, for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or
 - 2.3.1.2. having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in paragraph 9.1; or
 - 2.3.1.3. passing an approved test; or
 - 2.3.1.4. successfully completing approved training.

3. Minimum Requirements for Security-Awareness Training

- 3.1. Seafarers, without designated security duties, employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship are to receive security-awareness training before being assigned to any shipboard duties.
- 3.2. On completion of this training (generally part of a shore-based course which is approved), the seafarer should be issued with an STCW COP and be able to meet the competence standards given in table A-VI/6-1 of the STCW Code.

3.3. Transitional provisions:

- 3.3.1. Until 1 January 2014, seafarers who commenced seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012 shall be able to establish that they meet the requirements of section A-VI/6, para 4 by:
 - 3.3.1.1. approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel, for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or
 - 3.3.1.2. having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required in paragraph 5.1; or
 - 3.3.1.3. passing an approved test; or
 - 3.3.1.4. successfully completing approved training.

4. Recognition of COP from other Maritime Authorities

Tuvalu recognizes COP issued to seafarers to meet the requirements of Sections (2) and (3) of this circular so long as the COP was issued in accordance with the STCW Convention if they are issued by or under the authority of a maritime authority which is in the STCW "white" list. There is no need for any endorsement by Tuvalu to recognise such COP.

5. Transitional Provisions

- 5.1. The transitional provisions for the requirements of Sections (2) and (3) above have ended on 1 January 2014.
- 5.2. However, during the IMO Sub-Committee session on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping from 17 to 21 February 2014, 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 ISPS Code. Please refer to STCW.7/Circ.21 dated 25 February 2014.
- 5.3. This Administration also understands that it is impractical and inconvenient for seafarers who have commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 1 January 2014 to sign-off on short notice in order to obtain the required COP for security-related training. As such, seafarers who fall into this category may apply to the Administration for a grace period of up till 1 July 2015 (in-line with the recommendations of STCW.7/Circ.21) in order to have ample time to sign-off and obtain their COP after attending the relevant training. However, all seafarers who join a vessel after 1 January 2014 should already hold the required COP for security-related training to comply with STCW VI/6 before boarding the vessel.
- 5.4. Notwithstanding the above, this Administration strongly recommends that owners / managers take measures as soon as possible to ensure that all seafarers to meet the amended provisions of STCW VI/6.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry