



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 138

ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (ECDIS) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

**Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations,
Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and
Masters, Seafarers, duly authorised Manning Agents, Seafarers
Recruitment & Placement Service Providers and Training Providers**

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) requires mandatory training in the use of Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) for all officers serving on ships fitted with ECDIS.
- 1.2 This Bulletin outlines the Bahamas training requirements for applicable officers serving onboard ships fitted with ECDIS.
- 1.3 The Bulletin should be read in conjunction with Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) Information Bulletins relating to training and certification of seafarers.

2 Application

- 2.1 This Bulletin applies to:
 - (i) All Bahamian ships fitted with ECDIS;
 - (ii) All persons serving or intending to serve on Bahamian ships which ECDIS is required in accordance with STCW;
 - (iii) Companies employing, recruiting or selecting the seafarers noted above for service on board Bahamian ships.

2.2 For the purpose of this Bulletin, the following definitions apply:

- (i) *Company* is the entity that has accepted responsibility for the effective manning of, and the assignment of seafarers for service on board, Bahamian ships in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14,
- (ii) *Approved training* means training that satisfies the requirements specified in appropriate STCW Regulations and has been approved by either The Bahamas or a STCW party with which The Bahamas has a recognition agreement (See *BMA Information Bulletin 121*),
- (iii) *Officer* is the Master, Navigation Officer and any other officer engaged in the operation of ECDIS.

3 General

- 3.1 The carriage of ECDIS is mandatory for certain ships, including passenger ships, tankers and other cargo ships, as specified in SOLAS 1974, as amended, Regulation V/19.2.10.
- 3.2 IMO Circular MSC.1 /Circ. 1503 "*ECDIS-Guidance for Good Practice*", consolidates previous ECDIS circulars into a single document and provides additional guidance on ECDIS training.
- 3.3 Training providers and Companies conducting training should take into consideration the guidance on training and assessment in the operational use of ECDIS as provided in STCW Code Part B-1/12 paragraphs 36 ~ 65.
- 3.4 STCW Regulation I/14.1.5 and International Safety Management (ISM) Code sections 6.3 and 6.5, require Companies to ensure seafarers are provided with familiarization training for the shipboard equipment.
- 3.5 The ship safety management system should include familiarization with the ECDIS equipment fitted, including its backup arrangements, sensors and related peripherals. Training resources including type-specific materials, provided by ECDIS manufacturers may form part of the ECDIS familiarization training.
- 3.6 The BMA is only engaged in ECDIS training approval relating to officers who have been issued Bahamas Certificate of Competency and for training centers which are located in The Bahamas.

- 3.7 ISM Code and STCW Code A-VIII/2, for ships to which ISM Code does not apply, requires that the officers are competent in the use of navigation equipment, including ECDIS, to maintain safety of navigation and watchkeeping.

4 ECDIS Generic Training

- 4.1 Officers who have not completed training in ECDIS as part of their Certificate of Competency shall have completed an approved training on use of ECDIS.
- 4.2 The BMA will accept approved ECDIS generic training that satisfies the requirements of IMO model course 1.27 subject to this being referenced on the documentary evidence of training.

5 ECDIS Ship Specific Equipment Training

- 5.1 The ship specific ECDIS training should relate to the make and model of the ECDIS equipment installed on the ship.
- 5.2 If the generic training course has been undertaken on the same type of equipment and the course certificate makes reference to the equipment type, the BMA will accept this training as satisfying the ECDIS ship specific training requirement.
- 5.3 The ship specific ECDIS training should build on the generic training, and be delivered by either:
- i. the ECDIS manufacturer; or
 - ii. an ECDIS manufacturer's approved agent; or
 - iii. a trainer who has attended a manufacturer's programme; or
 - iv. using a manufacturer's approved computer based training package; or
 - v. using a structured training and assessment programme that is documented in the ship's safety management system.
- 5.4 Where the assigned trainer is a shipboard officer, the Company shall have a standardised documented training and assessment process to ensure:
- i. the consistency of training for the trainee, and
 - ii. the continued updating of the knowledge of the assigned trainer.
- 5.5 Where the training is carried out onboard, a record shall be maintained of all training carried out and where applicable, details of the qualification of the assigned trainer/assessor.

- 5.6 If the generic training course has been undertaken on the same type of equipment and the course certificate makes reference to the equipment type, this should be accepted as satisfying the ECDIS ship specific requirement.
- 5.7 It is the responsibility of the Company to ensure that if required, the ship specific ECDIS equipment training is carried out and the Master shall ensure that all affected officers have documentary evidence of ECDIS training prior to be assigned their shipboard navigational duties.

6 Documentary Evidence of ECDIS training

- 6.1 All applicable officers who have completed ECDIS training shall have documentary evidence of such training and this documentary evidence shall be available on board whilst the officer is onboard.
- 6.2 Certificate of Competency issued to officers in accordance with the 2010 STCW amendments should be taken as prima facie evidence that ECDIS generic training has been carried out.
- 6.3 In accordance with Sections 6.3 and 6.5 of the ISM Code, the Company shall ensure that ECDIS ship specific equipment training process and record-keeping is documented in the ship's safety management system.

7 Enquiries

- 7.1 Any queries related to ECDIS training requirements can be directed to the BMA's Seafarers & Manning Department at stcw@bahamasmaritime.com.

Revision History

Rev.2 (26 November 2015) – General formatting and editorial, inclusion of guidance from *IMO Circular MSC.1 /Circ. 1503*, clarity on the BMA acceptance of ECDIS training. *All revisions in blue text*

Rev.1 (11 January 2012) – Addition of “no later than 31 December 2016” to paragraph 2.2.2

Rev.0 (25 November 2011) – First issue