

Shipping Consultative Committee

Security-Related Trainings under the STCW 2010 Manila Amendments

Background

The revised STCW Convention and the STCW Code were adopted by IMO in June 2010 (i.e. STCW 2010 Manila Amendments) and entered into force globally on 1 January 2012.

2. One of the STCW 2010 Manila Amendments was the addition of security-related trainings for seafarers under the STCW Regulations VI/5 and VI/6. The Marine Department (MD) had issued a Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note (HKMSIN) no. 50/2012 and a circular letter (ref. SD/S 800/8 of 9 November 2012) to the shipping industries in relation to these trainings. A copy of these documents are attached with this paper for your information. However, it is noted that Regulation VI/6 of STCW is still not clear in some areas. The following are the interpretations adopted by Hong Kong.

Interpretation of STCW Regulation VI/6

3. The STCW Regulation VI/6 stipulates three security-related training requirements, namely:

- (a) security-related familiarization training for seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship which is required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code (STCW Code Section A-VI/6 para. 1 to 3);
- (b) security-awareness training for seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity but without designated security duties on board a ship which is required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code (STCW Code Section A-VI/6 para. 4 to 5); and
- (c) designated security duties training for seafarers (STCW Code Section A-VI/6 para. 6 to 9).

4. This administration considers that security-related familiarization training in (a) above is ship specific. All seafarers newly employed or engaged on a ship shall undergo security-related familiarization training conducted by the ship security officer or by an equally qualified person who is familiar with the vessel. The training standards for other two trainings in (b) and (c) above are already specified in IMO Model Course 3.27 and 3.26 respectively which can be conducted in the classroom.

5. Except for the ship specific security related familiarization training where all seafarers employed on a ship has to undergo, the training and certification under STCW A-VI/5 is for Ship Security Officer while A-VI/6 is for seafarers with designated duties and security awareness for other duties. The certificate of proficiencies issued to Ship Security Officer, seafarers with designated duties and the rest are meant to have a decreasing level of competencies. That means, a person who has the competency at the higher level will also be competent to perform security duties at a lower level without the need to obtain the certificate of proficiencies at the lower level other than his own.

6. For example, MD considers that if a seafarer holds a Ship Safety Officer certificate of proficiency, he is not required to obtain a designated security duties or security awareness certificate of proficiency when working on the related posts. Likewise, a seafarer holding a designated security duty certificate of proficiency is not required to obtain a security awareness certificate of proficiencies when working as an ordinary seaman.

Discussion

7. Member's are invited to take note of the above information and give comments where considered necessary.

Marine Department
Shipping Division
25 January 2013

Encl.

I. HKMSIN no. 50/2012

II. MD circular letter ref. SD/S 800/8 of 9 November 2012