

Shipping Consultative Committee

Implementation of the amendments to the STCW Convention and Code

The proposed amendments relating to revised training requirements for masters, officers, ratings and other personnel serving on board passenger ships engaged on international voyages,

Purpose

2. The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on the proposal of amending the relevant local legislation to implement the latest amendments to the STCW Convention and Code.

Background

3. In December 2016, members endorsed the proposal on new local legislation to implement the Polar Code as stipulated in MSC.416(97) and MSC.417(97). By these two resolutions, IMO also adopted amendments relating to revised training requirements for masters, officers, ratings and other personnel serving on board passenger ships engaged on international voyages.

4. Both of these two resolutions are attached to this paper as Annexes. Details of the amendments relating to the training requirements for masters, officers, ratings and other personnel serving on board passenger ships could be found in paragraph 3 of the Annex to MSC.416(97) (for amending Regulation V/2 of STCW Convention) and paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Annex to MSC.417(97) (for amending Sections A-I/14 and A-V/2 of STCW Code) respectively.

5. The amendments introduced by these two resolutions request that all personnel serving on board passenger ships engaged on international voyages shall, before being assigned to shipboard duties, have attained the abilities that are appropriate to their duties and responsibilities which contribute to:

- the implementation of emergency plans, instructions and procedures; and
- the effective communication with passengers during an emergency.

6. The above mentioned new requirements will come into force on 1 July 2018.

Existing legislation and Proposed Legislative Amendments

7. In Hong Kong, the training requirements related to persons working onboard seagoing passenger ships are regulated by the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Passenger Ship Training) Regulation (Cap.478AD) made under the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) Ordinance. We will amend Cap.478AD to reflect the latest amendments as mentioned in the above paragraphs.

Consultation

8. Members' comments, if any, are sought on our proposal to implement the above mentioned amendments to the STCW Conventions and Code by amending the existing regulation – Cap.478AD in Hong Kong.

25 May 2017

Multi-lateral Policy Division

Enclosure:

1. IMO Res. MSC.416(97)
2. IMO Res. MSC.417(97)