



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 789 of 5th August 2023

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Amendments to STCW Code
Reference	STCW Code

Amendments to STCW Code-New Provisions on Bullying and Harassment

The Committee approved amendments to the STCW Code (table A-VI/1-4) introducing a new competence on prevention and response to bullying and harassment, including sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH).

This training will be included as a part of the basic training requirements. The training will require individuals to demonstrate competence in prevention of bullying and harassment, which also aligns with existing provisions on bullying and harassment in the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006, Guideline B4.3.1. These amendments to the STCW Code will be presented for subsequent adoption at MSC 108 (May 2024).

Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code – Electronic Certificates of Seafarers

The Committee adopted Resolution MSC.538(107) amending regulations I/1 and I/2 of the STCW Convention to incorporate a new definition for "original form of any certificate required by the Convention" to recognize that seafarers' certificates may be issued in paper or electronic form, and to broadly support the trend of digitalization in marine operations.

In relation to these STCW Convention amendments, the Committee also adopted Resolution MSC.539(107) amending section A-I/2 of the STCW Code, to clarify the application of existing terms and terminologies found within the Code to certificates and endorsements produced in electronic form. The amendments clarify that terms such as "front," "back" and "overleaf" will not be applicable to electronic certificates. Similarly, an official seal as well as a photograph and signature of the seafarer are not necessary for certificates and endorsements in electronic form. These amendments to the STCW Convention and Code will enter into force on *1 January 2025*.

In support of these amendments, the Committee approved circular MSC.1/Circ.1665 containing

CONARINA Head Office

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455
Miami, FL., 33126
Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,
Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,
joel@conarinagroup.com



the associated Guidelines on the Use of Electronic Certificates of Seafarers to clarify the responsibilities of parties involved in cases of recognition of certificates. Administrations issuing electronic certificates or endorsements should also provide for the verification of such credentials for all parties involved. It is further specified that verification of the authenticity of an electronic certificate should be undertaken via an Internet connection that should be available on the ship. The seafarer should hold the minimum required data on board, which should be defined by the Administration and would be necessary to initiate a verification procedure. Verification may be obtained through an application, approved stored data, approved unique tracking number, approved seafarer identification number, Quick Response (QR) code, any combination of the above items, or whatever is deemed suitable for this purpose and approved by the Administration.

New Draft STCW-F Code Concluding a comprehensive review of the 1995 STCW-F Convention, the Committee approved amendments to the STCW-F Convention as well as a new STCW-F Code to support the implementation of the Convention for seafarers employed on fishing vessels. Numerous revisions to the STCW-F Convention have been made to parallel the scope of the STCW Convention, and to provide a standard better adapted to technological, regulatory, operational and other related industry developments. Similarly, the new STCW-F Code is structured similarly to the STCW Code and is intended to establish clear standards for training, certification and watchkeeping for fishing vessel personnel. This work to review and update seafarer training standards for fishing vessels was done in support of recent efforts at the IMO to see the 2012 Cape Town Agreement enter into force and establish international standards for the safe operation of fishing vessels. For entry into force, the agreement needs to be ratified by 22 States with an aggregate number of 3,600 fishing vessels operating on the high seas. The current number of ratifications stands at 21 States, with a total of around 2,603 eligible fishing vessels. The IMO is currently campaigning for Member States to ratify the agreement and have it enter into force in the near future. The revisions to the 1995 STCW-F Convention and new draft STCW-F Code will be presented for subsequent adoption at MSC 108 (May 2024).

CONARINA Head Office

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455
Miami, FL, 33126
Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,
Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,
Joel@conarinagroup.com



REFERENCES:

- STCW Code (table A-VI/1-4)

ATTACHMENTS: No

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

CONARINA Head Office

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455
Miami, Fl., 33126
Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,
Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,
Joel@conarinagroup.com