



Ref. T2/4.2

STCW.6/Circ.5
30 May 2000

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978**

**AMENDMENTS TO PART B OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000), adopted amendments to part B of the STCW Code as follows:

Section B-I/7

1 A new paragraph 1 to section B-I/7 is inserted as follows:

“Parties are encouraged, when communicating information in accordance with article IV and regulation I/7 of the Convention, to include an index specifically locating the required information as follows:

**Index of Materials submitted in accordance with
article IV and regulation I/7 of the STCW Convention**

Article IV of the STCW Convention:

	Location
1	Text of laws, decrees, orders, regulations and instruments (article IV(1)(a))
2	Details on study courses (article IV(1) (b))
3	National examination and other requirements (article IV(1) (b))
4	Specimen certificates (article IV(1) (c))

Section A-I/7 of the STCW Code

5	Information on Governmental organization (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.1)
6	Explanation of legal and administrative measures (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.2)
7	Statement of the education, training, examination, assessment and certification policies (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.3)

Location

- 8 Summary of the courses, training programmes, examinations, assessments by certificate (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.4)
 - 9 Outline of the procedures and conditions for authorizations, accreditations and approvals (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.5)
 - 10 List of authorizations, accreditations and approvals granted (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.5)
 - 11 Summary of procedures for dispensations (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.6)
 - 12 Comparison carried out pursuant to regulation I/11 (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.7)
 - 13 Outline of refresher and upgrading training mandated (section A-I/7, paragraph 2.7)
 - 14 Description of equivalency arrangements adopted pursuant to article IX (section A-I/7, paragraph 3.1)
 - 15 Summary of measures taken to ensure compliance with regulation I/10 (section A-I/7, paragraph 3.2)
 - 16 Specimen copy of safe manning documents issued to ships employing seafarers holding alternative certificates under regulation VII/1 (section A-I/7, paragraph 3.3)
 - 17 Report of results of evaluation(s) carried out pursuant to regulation I/8, and other information relating to such evaluations (section A-I/7, paragraph 4) ”
- 2 The existing text of section B-I/7 is renumbered as paragraph 2.

Section B-I/9

- 3 A new sentence is added at the end of paragraph 1 under the heading **MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATION**, as follows:

“Those involved in establishing seafarer medical examination procedures should also take into account the guidance contained in the ILO/WHO publication “Guidelines for Conducting Pre-Sea and Periodic Medical Fitness Examinations for Seafarers” (ILO/WHO/D.2/1997).”

- 4 The existing paragraph 6 is replaced as follows:

“6 In the absence of mandatory international medical standards for seafarers, Parties should regard the minimum in-service eyesight standards set out in table B-I/9-1, the minimum physical abilities standards set out in table B-I/9-2 and the provisions of paragraphs 7 to 11 hereunder as the minimum for safe operation of ships, as well as report casualties where poor eyesight or physical inabilities have contributed to such incidents.”

5 The existing paragraph 7 is replaced as follows:

“7 Each Administration has the discretionary authority to grant a variance or waiver of any of the standards set out in tables B-I/9-1 and B-I/9-2 hereunder, based on an assessment of a medical evaluation and any other relevant information concerning an individual’s adjustment to the condition and proven ability to satisfactorily perform assigned shipboard functions. When considering a variance or waiver of eyesight standards, where the aided distant visual acuity of either eye is less than the standard in table B-I/9-1, the aided distant visual acuity in the better eye should be at least 0.2 higher than the standard indicated. The unaided distant visual acuity in the better eye should be at least 0.1.”

6 In paragraph 10, the word “visual” is deleted.

7 The existing paragraph 11 is replaced as follows:

“11 Notwithstanding these provisions, the Administration may require higher standards than those given in table B-I/9-1 or table B-I/9-2 below.”

8 The existing table in section B-I/9 is renumbered as B-I/9-1.

9 A new table B-I/9-2 is inserted after table B-I/9-1, as follows:

"Table B-I/9-2

Guidance on assessment of minimum entry-level and in-service physical abilities for seafarers ^{1,2,6}

SHIPBOARD TASK, FUNCTION, EVENT OR CONDITION ³	RELATED PHYSICAL ABILITY	A MEDICAL EXAMINER should be satisfied that the candidate ^{4,5}
Routine movement on slippery, uneven and unstable surfaces; risk of injury	Maintain balance (equilibrium)	has no disturbance in sense of balance.
Routine access between levels; emergency response procedures	Climb up and down vertical ladders and stairways	is able without assistance, to climb up and down vertical ladders and stairways (inclined ladders).
Routine movement between spaces and compartments; emergency response procedures	Step over coamings (e.g., to 60 cm in height)	is able without assistance, to step over a high door sill (coaming).
Open and close watertight doors; hand cranking systems, open and close valve wheels; handle lines, use hand tools (i.e., spanners, fire axes, valve wrenches, hammers, screwdriver, pliers)	Manipulate mechanical devices (manual and digital dexterity, and strength)	is able to grasp, lift and manipulate various common shipboard tools; move hands/arms to open and close valve wheels in vertical and horizontal directions; rotate wrists to turn handles.
Access throughout ship; use tools and equipment; emergency response procedures must be followed promptly, including donning of life jacket or exposure suit	Move with agility	does not have any impairment or disease which could prevent his/her normal movement and physical activities.
Handle ship's stores; use tools and equipment; handle lines; follow emergency response procedures	Lift, pull, push and carry a load	does not have any impairment or disease which could prevent his/her normal movement and physical activities.
Overhead storage; opening and closing valves	Reach above shoulder height	does not have any impairment or disease which could prevent his/her normal movement and physical activities.

SHIPBOARD TASK, FUNCTION, EVENT OR CONDITION ³	RELATED PHYSICAL ABILITY	A MEDICAL EXAMINER should be satisfied that the candidate ^{4,5}
General ship's maintenance; emergency response procedures, including damage control	Crouch (lowering height by bending knees) Kneel (placing knees on ground) Stoop (lowering height by bending at the waist).	does not have any impairment or disease which could prevent his/her normal movement and physical activities
Emergency response procedures, including escape from smoke-filled spaces	Crawl (the ability to move the body with hands and knees). Feel (the ability to handle or touch to examine or determine differences in temperature)	does not have any impairment or disease which could prevent his/her normal movement and physical activities.
Stand a watch for a minimum of 4 hours	Stand and walk for extended periods	is able to stand and walk for extended periods
Access between spaces; follow emergency response procedures	Work in constricted spaces and move through restricted openings (e.g 60 cm x 60 cm)	does not have any impairment or disease which could prevent his/her normal movement and physical activities.
React to visual alarms, warnings, and instructions; emergency response procedures	Distinguish an object or shape at a certain distance	fulfils the eye-sight standards specified by the competent authority.
React to audible alarms and instructions; emergency response procedures	Hear a specified dB sound at a specified frequency,	fulfils the hearing capacity standards specified by the competent authority.
Make verbal reports or call attention to suspicious or emergency conditions	Describe immediate surroundings and activities, and pronounce words clearly	is capable of normal conversation

Notes:

1. The above table describes (a) ordinary shipboard tasks, functions, events and conditions, (b) a corresponding physical ability which is considered necessary for the safety of a seafarer who is living and working on board a ship at sea, and (c) a guideline for measuring the corresponding physical ability. Administrations should take these physical abilities into account when establishing medical fitness standards.
2. This table is not intended to address all possible shipboard conditions or potentially disqualifying medical conditions; and it should, therefore, be used only as general guidance. Administrations should determine the categories of seafarers who are subject to an assessment of physical ability for service on sea-going ships, taking into account the nature of shipboard work for which they will be employed. For example, full application of these guidelines may not be appropriate in the case of entertainers who are not assigned duties on the muster list. Also, special circumstances surrounding individual cases as well as any known risks of permitting the individual to be employed on board ship, and the extent to which a limited ability might be accommodated in a given situation, should be given full consideration.
3. The term "emergency response procedures" as used in this table is intended to cover all standard emergency response evolutions such as abandon ship and fire-fighting, as well as basic procedures to be followed by each seafarer to enhance his/her personal survival to avoid creating situations where special assistance from other crew members would be required.
4. The term "assistance" means the use of another person to accomplish the task.
5. If in doubt, the medical examiner should quantify the degree or severity of any disqualifying impairment by means of objective tests, whenever appropriate tests are available, or by referring the candidate for further assessment.
6. The ILO Medical Examination (Seafarers) Convention, 1946 (No. 73) provides, *inter alia*, that arrangements shall be made to enable a person who, after examination, has been refused a certificate to apply for a further examination by a medical referee or referees who shall be independent of any shipowner or of any organization of shipowners or seafarers."

10 New paragraphs 15 and 16 are added as follows:

“Development of a database for certificate registration

15 In implementing the requirement in paragraph 4.1 of regulation I/9 of the revised STCW Convention for the maintenance of a register of certificates and endorsements, a **standard** database is not necessary provided that all the relevant information is recorded and available in accordance with regulation I/9.

16 The following items of information should be recorded and available either on paper or electronically in accordance with regulation I/9:

.1 Status of certificate

Valid
Suspended
Cancelled
Reported lost
Destroyed

with a record of changes to status to be kept, including dates of changes.

.2 Certificate details

Seafarer's name
Date of birth
Nationality
Sex
Preferably a photograph
Relevant document number
Date of issue
Date of expiry
Last revalidation date
Details of dispensation(s)

.3 Competency details

STCW competency standard (e.g. regulation II/1)
Capacity
Function
Level of responsibility
Endorsements
Limitations

.4 Medical details

Date of issue of latest medical certificate relating to the issue or revalidation of the appropriate certificate.”

11 A new table B-I/9-3 is inserted after Tables B-I/9-1 and B-I/9-2 as follows:

**"Table B-I/9-3
LIST OF CERTIFICATES OR DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE REQUIRED
UNDER THE STCW CONVENTION**

The list below identifies all certificates or documentary evidence in the Convention which authorize the holder to serve in certain functions on board ships. The certificates are subject to the requirements of regulation I/2 regarding language and their availability in original form. The list also references the relevant regulations and the requirements for endorsement and registration (regulation I/9).

Regulations	Certificate or documentary evidence (Brief description)	Endorsement required	Registration required
II/1, II/2, II/3, III/1, III/2, III/3, IV/2, V/1, VII/2	appropriate certificate for Master, officers and radio personnel	yes	yes
II/4, III/4	ratings duly certificated to be a part of a navigational or engine room watch	no	yes, as appropriate
V/1	"ratings assigned to specific duties on tankers"	no	yes, as appropriate
V/2	"training requirements for personnel serving on ro-ro passenger ships"	no	no
V/3	"training requirements for personnel serving on passenger ships other than ro-ro passenger ships"	no	no
VI/2	"a certificate of proficiency in survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats"	no	no
VI/3	"training in advanced fire fighting"	no	no
VI/4	"training relating to medical first aid and medical care"	no	no

Section B-I/10

12 A new paragraph is added as follows:

"Training carried out under the STCW Convention which does not lead to the issue of an appropriate certificate and on which information provided by a Party is found by the Maritime Safety Committee to give full and complete effect to the Convention in accordance with regulation I/7 paragraph 2, may be accepted by other Parties to the Convention as meeting the relevant training requirements thereof."

Section B-I/11

13 A new table B-I/11 is added as follows:

"Table B-I/11

**TABLE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STCW 78 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
AND STCW 95 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Certificate or training	STCW 78 certificate requirements	STCW 95 certificate					
		Requirements	Amendments apply to	Implementation dates	Certificate required	Revalidation of training required ¹	Revalidation of certification required ²
Master and deck officer certificate of competency	Reg. II/2 to II/5	Reg. II/1 to II/3 + Chapter IV	Masters and officers with STCW 78 certificates and 1995 certificates		Yes	Yes, or service. Updating as appropriate for those with STCW 78 certificates (completed before 2002)	Yes
Deck rating	Reg. II/6	Reg. II/4	Rating designated to watchkeeping duties		Yes	No	No
Chief engineer and engineer officer certificate of competency	Reg. III/2 to III/5	Reg. III/1 to III/3	Chief engineer and engineer officers with STCW 78 certificates and STCW 95 certificates		Yes	Yes, or service. Updating as appropriate for those with STCW 78 certificates (completed before 2002)	Yes
Engine room rating	Reg. III/6		Ratings designated to watchkeeping duties under STCW 78 Convention	In force now (until 1 Feb.2002)	No	No	No

Certificate or training	STCW 78 certificate requirements	STCW 95 certificate					
		Requirements	Amendments apply to	Implementation dates	Certificate required	Revalidation of training required ¹	Revalidation of certification required ²
		Reg. III/4	Rating designated to watchkeeping duties under STCW 95 Convention		Yes	No	No
Radio personnel	Chapter IV, as amended GMDSS ships	Chapter IV GMDSS ships	Radio personnel on GMDSS ships (also required under reg. II/1 and VII/1)		Yes	Yes or service	Yes
	Non-GMDSS ships	Non-GMDSS ships	Non-GMDSS ships as per Radio Regulation		Yes as per Radio Regulations	No	No
Training for personnel on ro-ro passenger ships	None	Reg. V/2	Master, officers and other personnel serving in ro-ro passenger ships on international voyages	1 February 1997	Documentary evidence	Refresher training as appropriate	Documentary evidence required, as appropriate
Training for personnel on passenger ships other than ro-ro ships	None	Reg. V/3	Master, officers and other personnel serving in ro-ro passenger ships on international voyages	1 January 1999	Documentary evidence	Refresher training as appropriate	Documentary evidence required, as appropriate
Familiarization or instruction on safety	None	Reg. VI/1, section A-VI/1, paragraph 1	All seafarers	1 February 1997	No	No	No
			Masters, officers and watchkeeping ratings	In force now	No	No	No

Certificate or training	STCW 78 certificate requirements	STCW 95 certificate					
		Requirements	Amendments apply to	Implementation dates	Certificate required	Revalidation of training required ¹	Revalidation of certification required ²
Basic safety training or instruction	Included under chapters II, III and IV		Masters, officers and watchkeeping ratings	In force now (until 1 February 2002)	No	No	No
		Reg. VI/1, section A-VI/1, paragraph 2	All other seafarers with designated safety and pollution prevention duties	1 February 1997	No	No	No
Survival craft and rescue boats	Reg. VI/1		Every seafarer required to be certificated	In force now	Yes	No	No
		Reg. VI/2, paragraph 1	Every candidate for certification under reg. VI/2, paragraph 1 or under 1978 regulations of chapters II and III	1 August 1998 for those who commenced approved training after that date Until 1 February 2002	1 Appropriate certificate under chapters II and III or chapter VII, or 2 Certificate under reg. VI/1 of the 1978 Convention, or 3 Certificate under reg. VI/2	No	No
Medical first aid	None (Similar requirement under chapter II for masters and chief mates)	Reg. VI/4, section A-VI/4, paragraph 1-3	Those designated to provide medical first aid	1 February 1997 except masters and chief mates	1 STCW 95 certificate under chapter II, III or chapter VII or 2 Special certificate or 3 Documentary evidence under reg. VI/4	No	No

Certificate or training	STCW 78 certificate requirements	STCW 95 certificate					
		Requirements	Amendments apply to	Implementation dates	Certificate required	Revalidation of training required ¹	Revalidation of certification required ²
Take charge of medical care aboardship	Reg. II/2		Masters and chief mates with STCW 78 certificates		Appropriate STCW 78 certificate	No	No
		Reg. VI/4 paragraph 2,3	Masters and chief mates with STCW 78 certificates (if designated to provide these duties)	Until 1 February 2002	Appropriate STCW 78 certificate	No	No
				after issue of STCW 95 certificate	New 1995 certificate	No	No
		Reg. VI/4 paragraph 2,3	These designated to provide these duties	1 February 1997	Special certificate or documentary evidence		
Recognition of certificates	No	Reg. I/10	Certificate issued by other Parties	1 February 2002 for STCW 78 certificates and for STCW 95 certificates issued to seafarers commencing approved training programmes or seagoing service before 1 August 1998. 1 August 1998 for STCW 95 certificates issued to seafarers commencing approved training or seagoing service on or after 1 August 1998	Endorsement of the recognizing Party to the appropriate certificate of issuing Party	No	Yes, both by the issuing Party and the recognizing Party

Notes: ¹ Revalidation of training required means either updating existing STCW 78 certificates to 1995 standards or undergoing such specific training or service to continue to qualify for seagoing service.

² Revalidation of certification required means establishing continued professional competence. "

14 A new section B-V/d is added after section B-V/c as follows:

"Guidance on application of the provisions of the STCW Convention to mobile offshore units (MOUs)

1 The provisions of the STCW Convention apply to the maritime personnel of self-propelled MOUs proceeding on voyages;

2 the provisions of the STCW Convention do not apply to non self-propelled MOUs or to MOUs on station;

3 when considering appropriate standards of training and certification when an MOU is on station, the country of registry should take account of relevant IMO recommendations. In particular, all maritime crew members on self-propelled MOUs and, where required, on other units should meet the requirements of the STCW Convention, as amended;

4 self-propelled MOUs proceeding on international voyages are required to carry safe manning documents;

5 MOUs on station are subject to the national legislation of the coastal State in whose Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) they are operating. Such coastal States should also take account of relevant IMO recommendations and should not prescribe higher standards for MOUs registered in other countries than the standards applied to MOUs registered in that coastal State; and

6 all special personnel employed on board MOUs (whether or not self-propelled) should be provided with appropriate familiarization and basic safety training in accordance with relevant IMO recommendations."

2 STCW Parties and all others concerned are invited to note the above and take action as appropriate.
