

KPI Information Update IU-102-2017 **(Guidance on the requirements of the STCW 1978, as amended)**

The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), at its fourth session in January and February 2017 has provided guidance by STCW.7/Circ.24/Rev.1 (re-issued on 16th June 2017) with a view to attain unified implementation by port state control officers, parties, administrations and recognized organizations of requirements of the 2010 Manila amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.

In accordance with regulation I/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended, seafarers should not be required to provide documentation for verification that is not required by the Convention; and certificates or documentary evidences issued under the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended, should not be required to contain reference to IMO model courses.

In order to avoid confusion, it is recommended that certificates and endorsements referring to the STCW Convention use the reference "the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended" without further appending the

year/dates of the amendments and it is recognized that seafarers may hold certificates and documentary evidences that contain a different reference to the STCW Convention which should remain valid and be accepted;

Seafarers should not be required to provide documentation of training in Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) that is specific to the installed equipment on board the ship on which they are serving but those seafarers are required to be familiarized with the ECDIS equipment installed on board as provided for under Regulation I/14. Paragraph 28.5 of section E of MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev.1 (ECDIS – Guidance to good practice re-issued on 16th June 2017) states that "STCW Convention, regulation I/14, paragraph 1.5, as well as section 6.3 of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, require companies to ensure seafarers are provided with familiarization. A ship safety management system should include familiarization with the ECDIS equipment fitted, including its backup arrangements, sensors and related peripherals. ECDIS manufacturers are encouraged to provide training resources including type-specific materials. These resources may form part of the ECDIS familiarization.

STCW Convention, regulation I/14, paragraph 1.4, requires companies to maintain evidence of the training and ensure that it is readily accessible”. Paragraph 28.6 of the same section reiterates that “for certificates of competency that have expiry dates beyond 1 January 2017, port State control authorities should accept the certificate issued as *prima facie* evidence that the seafarer has met the standard of competence required by the 2010 Amendments in accordance with the control provisions of article X and regulation I/4 of the STCW Convention”.

Concerning new Regulations II/5 (able seafarer deck), III/5 (able seafarer engine), III/6 (electro technical officers) and III/7 (electro technical ratings), personnel on board should not be required to possess an applicable certificate of competency or certificate of proficiency when such personnel are not included in the Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) of the ship but they shall not be given functions assigned to the seafarers under relevant table of competencies contained in STCW section A-II/5, A-III/5, A-III/6 and A-III/7. It is reminded that under paragraph 2.1 of appendix 11 of the *Procedures for Port State Control, 2011* (resolution A.1052(27)), If a ship is manned in accordance with a MSMD or equivalent document issued by the flag State it has to be accepted that the ship is safely manned.

The certificates of competency issued in accordance with regulations II/1 (officers in charge of a navigational watch on ships of 500 GT or more), II/2 (masters and chief mates on ships of 500 Gt or more), II/3 (officers in charge of a navigational watch and masters on ships of less than 500 GT), III/1 (officers in charge of an engineering watch), III/2 (chief engineer and second engineer officers on ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 3000 KW propulsion power or more), III/3 (chief engineer and second engineer officers on ships powered by main propulsion machinery of between 750 and 3000 KW propulsion power), III/6 (electro technical officers) and VII/2 (officers having alternative certification) include the proficiency requirements in “**basic training**”, “**survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats**”, “**advanced fire-fighting**” and “**medical first aid**” therefore, holders of mentioned certificates of competency are not required to carry Certificates of Proficiency in respect of those competences of chapter VI.