



Briefings of IMO Meeting

HTW 9 (6 -10 Feb. 2023)

BRIEFING STATUS

Flash

No. IMO-0003-23

(For sub-committee only 1 step as Flash)

Subject: Newsflash of HTW 9

The 9th session of Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (hereinafter referred to as HTW) was convened as a hybrid meeting from from 6th to 10th February 2023.

This news flash briefs on the outcomes of HTW 9 on major issues.

1. Validated model training courses [Agenda Item 3]

O The validation of eleven(11) model training courses* was approved after review by the drafting group(DG)

* Nine(9) revisions of model course(1.23 proficiency in survival craft/rescue boats, 1.20 fire prevention and fire fighting, 2.03 advanced training in fire fighting, etc.) and two(2) newly proposed model courses(engine room resource management, etc.)

- (Common items for review of model training courses) The overview table of the training courses has been modified to meet the knowledge and technical requirements of STCW Code A, and the training hours assigned for each subject have been adjusted to the total duration of the entire course.

* The key terms of each subject in the model training courses have been modified in accordance with the standard terms listed in the guidelines(MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.2) for model course development, review, and validation

** The recommended maximum number of students per instructor during practical training has been revised from 6 to 8. For the revised draft of the 1.24 proficiency in high-speed craft course, clear criteria for the use of simulation have been included

O A work plan has been established for the revision of the five(5) model training courses* by HTW 11 in 2025

* 3.20 Ship Security Officer, 3.21 Port Facility Security Officer, 3.23 Measures to prevent and suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, 1.25 General Operator's Certificate for GMDSS, and 1.26 Restricted Operator's Certificate for GMDSS.



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2. Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code [Agenda Item 7]

O Following the amendment to the STCW Convention in 2010, demands for the establishment of new training courses for seafarers have increased due to technological advancements, such as the emergence of environment-friendly and smart ships

* The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978

- As the demands of member states for the revision of the STCW Convention to reflect these technological and temporal changes have increased, the Convention is subject to a comprehensive review and amendment.

* The 105th session of the Maritime Safety Committee(MSC) in April 2021 adopted the agenda item of "comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention," and included the target completion year(by 2026) in the new output of the sub-committee(HTW)

O The aims and basic principles for the comprehensive review and amendment of the STCW Convention have been established, and the Terms of reference for the Correspondence Group has been defined

- Based on the document jointly submitted by 34 member states and two(2) international organizations(HTW 9/7/4), the working scope and roadmap will be established.

- The aims include the establishment of international standards for competent seafarer training, education, and watchkeeping, the incorporation of new technologies, and the consistent implementation of the Convention among member states

- The principles include reflecting new technologies applied to ship operations, preventing the weakening of the present Convention, avoiding unnecessary administrative burden, and establishing regulations for simplifying the replacement and transfer of seafarers.



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4. Comprehensive review of the 1995 STCW-F Convention [Agenda Item 8]

O The revision of the STCW-F* has been under discussion to promote ratification by member states since 2016, and five documents were submitted for consideration at the 9th session of the HTW.

* The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995

** Currently ratified by 35 member states in total as of 2023, with Syria and Indonesia only in Asia having ratified it

O Guidelines for a fishing vessel personnel medical certificate, developed by the working group, have been completed

- Based on the medical certificate guidelines of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers(STCW), it was supported by many member states, including Republic of Korea

O Some member states such as Iceland proposed using the term "Fishier" instead of "Fishing Vessel Personnel" used in the STCW-F Convention, since the definition of "Fisher" in the 2007 Work in Fishing Convention is the same as that of "Fishing Vessel Personnel."

- Due to the legal impact apparently led by the term change and the procedural difference with a view to amend the article and annex in the Convention respectively, many member states* including Republic of Korea raised their opposition.

* Including Republic of Korea, Japan, UAE, New Zealand, Palau, Argentina, Thailand, and Dominica

- The chair invited IMO Secretariat to request a legal impact analysis of the difference between the two terms, and to share the results at the next MSC session



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5. Development of Measures to ensure quality of onboard training and facilitate mandatory seagoing service required under the STCW Convention [Agenda items 9, 10]

- O Consideration of measures to ensure and promote the quality of mandatory onboard training, such as partially replacing onboard training with simulation training
 - Several member states, including Sweden, the United States, and France, believed the need for further consideration on this matter, as sufficient discussion has not been made during the Correspondence Group
 - It was agreed to consider these measures during the "STCW Convention review and revision" agenda
- O In regard to India's proposal to legislate the number of trainees assigned to private vessels as a measure to facilitate mandatory onboard training for trainee seafarers, several member states, including Sweden, Japan, and the Netherlands, addressed little support. subsequently, the chair decided to close the discussion without further consideration.

6. Any other business [Agenda Item 14]

Review of Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates for Seafarers

- O Since there were comments by the 106th MSC session, inter alia, with respect to responsibility for verifying the authenticity of electronic certificates for seafarers. However, many member states maintained their position that the responsibility and authority for seafarers' certificates lies with the Administration (the Government of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly), and therefore, the sub-committee agreed to refer the draft guidelines to the MSC as initially submitted to MSC 106 (HTW 8/16, annex 9) for the 107th session of the MSC for approval

* At the 106th session of the Maritime Safety Committee, Cook Islands and others commented that extra consideration was needed on the entity providing verification tools for the authenticity of electronic certificates (i.e., the Administration responsible for issuing the certificate or the endorsement ones)



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□ **Review of Draft Guidelines on mitigation measures to reduce risks of use and carriage for use of heavy fuel oil(HFO) as fuel by ships in Arctic waters**

○ The draft guidelines with a view to comply with special requirements for the use and carriage of oil fuel in the Arctic waters(MARPOL Annex I, Reg. 43A) were reviewed(limited to familiarization, education, and training section) at the Working Group at the request of PPR 8

- The working group completed its modifications to comply with the STCW Convention, and the results of the review are to be reported at the 10th session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response(PPR).

* For example, "Crew" was changed to "Seafarers."

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