



G-B INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Technical Service Circular Nr. 02/ 2023, 16/02/2023
IMO Developments

**Subject: “ Highlights of IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 9),
6-10 February 2023 ”**

Ref.: SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN ELEMENT, TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING 9th session Agenda item 1
HTW 9/1/2 19 December 2022.

Summary: Reference is made to the 9th session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 9), which was held from 6 to 10 February 2023. Within the working session, HTW 9 among others finalized its comprehensive review of the 1995 STCW-F Convention to improve the training provisions for fishing vessel personnel. It is noted that a comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code was also initiated, and several model courses of profound importance were validated.

Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW)

1. The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training, and Watchkeeping (HTW) deals with the human side of shipping, including training and certification; the review, updating, and revision of IMO model courses; and guidance addressing issues such as fatigue.

STCW-F Convention: Training for fishers – review of 1995 STCW-F Convention completed

2. The Sub-Committee completed its work to revise and update the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), which was adopted by IMO in 1995. The 1995 STCW-F Convention is a binding treaty that sets certification and minimum training requirements for crews of seagoing fishing vessels intending to promote the safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment, taking into account the unique nature of the fishing industry and the fishing working environment. The Sub-Committee agreed to the revised STCW-F Convention and the draft new STCW-F Code, for submission to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its 107th session (31 May-7 June 2023) for approval.

STCW training provisions on bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH)

3. The Sub-Committee agreed to draft amendments to the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Code, to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH). The G-B I.S.R. points out that the new provisions will apply to all seafarers by means of amendments to the STCW Code, table A-VI/1-4 (Specification of minimum standard of competence in personal safety and social responsibilities), consisting of a new competence: Contribute to the prevention of and response to bullying and harassment, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, which has been assessed to be of critical importance for the effective on-board operation of seafarers.

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A Comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code

4. Following a respective MSC mandate an initial discussion in the plenary, and the progress made in the working group established at the HTW 9 session, the Sub-Committee instructed the Correspondence Group on the Review of the STCW Convention and Code to identify the specific areas to be reviewed and to prepare a roadmap for the review.

Reports on fraudulent certificates – GB ISR Action QR Code Verification

5. The HTW Sub-Committee agreed that the particular topic is a challenge for the maritime industry as a whole and the response should be coordinated among all Member States involved, the Sub-Committee highlighted the need for continuous and transparent communication between flag States and port States on the matter. The Sub-Committee also reiterated the need for Member States and international organizations to urgently submit proposals on a strategy to address the problems associated with fraudulent certificates of competency. In that respect, the G-B ISR with the introduction and extended usage of the QR Code verification for all its certificates issued is actively contributing towards the IMO guidance and strategy adopted against the practice of fraudulent certificates.

STCW Model Courses Validation

6. IMO model courses intend to assist instructors in developing training programs for seafarers as per the International Convention of Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978. The model courses are subject to regular review to ensure that they are consistent with the current IMO instruments and reflect best practices and modern technologies. Of particular relevance in that respect is considered to be the validation by the HTW 9 of a large number of model courses including:

- New Model Course: Passenger safety, cargo safety, and hull integrity training;
- New Model Course: Engine-room resource management;
- 1.20 on Fire prevention and fire fighting;
- 1.22 on Bridge Resource Management;
- 1.23 on Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats;
- 1.24 on Proficiency in fast rescue boats;
- 2.03 on Advanced training in firefighting;
- 3.25 on Security awareness training for all port facility personnel;
- 3.26 on Security training for seafarers with designated security duties;
- 3.27 on Security awareness training for all seafarers

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

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