



**Technical Service Circular Nr. 02/ 2024, 05/03/2024**

**IMO Developments**

**Subject:** “ IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN ELEMENT, TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING (HTW 10)  
– London 05-09 February 2024”

**Ref.:** HTW 10/WP.1/Rev.1, 14 February 2024

**Summary:** The current IMO T.S.C. reports on some of the main results of the 10th session of the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training, and Watchkeeping (HTW 10), which was held at the IMO Headquarters from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Among others the following topics are considered of particular relevance in terms of prioritizing STCW topics: (a) the subjects identified relevant to the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code and the respective road map, (b) agreement achieved relevant to training provisions for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and (c) a new GISIS module on the STCW convention to be trialed.

1. From the viewpoint of G-B I.S.R., focusing on the international registry’s priorities relevant to seafarer’s training and certification the following topics are included among others within the highlights of HTW 10:

- a. **A Comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code:** During the Sub-Committee's deliberations a two-step methodology for the comprehensive review of the Convention was agreed upon. The first step will be an in-depth review of the entire Convention and Code, including issues and priority topics related to outdated training requirements, emerging technologies, digitalization, cybersecurity awareness, and psychological safety. The follow-up step will be a comprehensive revision both of the Convention and Code as a result of the gaps identified within the context of a wide-ranging analysis. HTW 10 also agreed on a concrete road map for the work, with a targeted completion date in late 2027.
- b. **Training for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels:** The HTW 10 Sub-Committee agreed that training provisions for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels, including battery-powered ships, should be developed due to the importance and relevance of the topic, in parallel with the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, as prescribed above.

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c. **Additional GISIS module - STCW online database:** HTW 10 agreed to establish a new module in the IMO's online information database (GISIS) for a trial period to make information on the recognition of STCW certificates and the "certificate verification facility" available to all interested stakeholders. The Sub-Committee emphasized that the launch of this module would be beneficial and some new functions should be added, e.g. CoC endorsements issued following STCW regulation I/10 and verification of authenticity of certificates to help address fraudulent practices. In addition, the Sub-Committee stressed that the administration of the communication of information obligations required by the STCW Convention and Code would be facilitated and administrative burden reduced with the new module, which should be used by Parties. The initiative is a response to reports on fraudulent STCW certificates and endorsements emphatically underlined during the Committee's deliberations.

2. In conclusion, the G-B International Ships Registry underscores its unwavering commitment to the promotion of maritime safety and efficiency through robust STCW certification procedures and the adoption of digitalization initiatives relevant to the issuance of STCW certificates. By prioritizing the adherence to stringent standards to be established by the latest HTW initiatives, we aim to enhance the integrity and reliability of our seafarer's certification services, ensuring optimal compliance via the IMO GISIS module and operational excellence within the global maritime community.

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar

