

**IMO MEETING REPORT**



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| DATE: 15th February 2022 | COMMITTEE: MSC |
| ATTENDEE: Andy Williams | SUB GROUP: HTW |

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| This was the 8th session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping, held virtually from the 7th to 11th February 2022.  ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE LEISURE/SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY  **Electronic certificates and documents of seafarers –** It may be recalled from the HTW 7 report that a correspondence group was established to report back to this session. The correspondence group conducted further work on the draft amendments to the STCW Convention and Code as well as the draft guidelines on the use of electronic certificates and documents of seafarers. These amendments and guidelines were referred to the working group on human element and maritime training for finalisation. Having considered the report of the working group the Sub-Committee agreed the draft STCW amendments and guidelines which will now be submitted to MSC for approval.  The draft amendments to the STCW Convention and Code and the draft guidelines can be found at annexes 3, 4 and 5 respectively of the report of the human element working group in attached document HTW 8/WP.7.  **Development of measures to ensure quality of onboard training as part of the mandatory seagoing service required by the STCW convention** - It may be recalled from the MSC 101 report that the Committee agreed to the following new work which was referred to the HTW Sub-Committee:   * Proposal for a new output of provisions on the development of quality of onboard training of prospective officers * Proposal for a new output on mandatory seagoing service for certification under the STCW Convention, as amended   A number of papers on this agenda item were submitted to this and the previous session and on consideration and discussion of the topic the Sub-Committee agreed to establish a correspondence group with the following terms of reference:   1. Prepare a work plan to develop measures regarding the assurance of quality of onboard training required by the STCW Convention, including identification of expected goals, effectiveness and consequences of any measures to be adopted. 2. Consider the proposals for the development of non-mandatory provisions relating to the quality of onboard training, as set out in documents HTW 7/10/1 and HTW 7/10/2, and advise the Sub-Committee, accordingly.   With respect to the output on mandatory sea-going service the Sub-Committee tasked the correspondence group with collating information on the difficulties faced by Member States in implementing STCW provisions for mandatory seagoing service and also the problems in relation to the identified practices, including possible solutions, classified as short- and long-term measures.  The correspondence group will report back to HTW 9 with a work plan to develop measures regarding the assurance of quality of onboard training required by the STCW Convention, including identification of expected goals, effectiveness and consequences of any measures to be adopted. It is expected that any provisions adopted will be non-mandatory.  **Guidelines on safe operation of onshore power supply (OPS) service in port for ships engaged on international voyages –** It may be recalled from the SSE 7 report that the draft guidelines for the operation of OPS were approved at that session subject to consideration of the personnel, training and familiarization provisions in the draft interim guidelines by HTW 7. Due to time constraints this was deferred to HTW 8 where it was agreed that the guidelines should only address familiarization, as training is already covered through different STCW competencies and the ISM Code. HTW 8 further noted the need to address an inconsistency in the definition of “high voltage” between the draft interim guideless and Regulation I/1.1.44 of the STCW Convention. The draft interim guidelines will be submitted to MSC 105 for consideration and approval. The draft amendments to Section 6 of the guidelines can be found at annex 7 of the report of the human element working group in attached document HTW 8/WP.7.  **The application of casualty cases and lessons learned to seafarers' education and training –**Recognising that important lessons can be learned from maritime accidents and casualties, the Sub-Committee has been working on a set of guidelines which can formalise the approach to learning lessons with a view to reducing the human-element related risk. The draft guidelines, which can be found at annex 2 of the report of the human element working group in attached document HTW 8/WP.7, were agreed at this session and were referred to the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) to complete the links to relevant websites for casualty investigation, including IMO’s GISIS module on marine casualties and incidents: <https://gisis.imo.org/Public/MCI/Default.aspx>  **Seafarers’ psychological safety, mental health and well-being (including sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH) –** Dominica submitted attached document HTW8/3/5 “Upgrade model course 1.21 on Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities” in response to recent research which reveals that feelings of isolation, uncertainty, bullying and victimization are increasing within the maritime industry. The Sub-Committee agreed that this was a matter for urgent attention and noted that enhancing the course on Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities would be the correct approach to raise awareness of these issues. Following the discussion of the topic in the plenary session it was agreed that before undertaking a review of the model course it would be necessary to amend the relevant requirements in the 1978 STCW Convention and with this in mind, the Sub-Committee invited submissions of relevant proposals to the Maritime Safety Committee for consideration.  **Draft report of the Sub-Committee** – The draft report can be found in attached document HTW 7/WP.1/Rev.1.  PRINCIPAL ISSUES:  The meeting agenda was as follows:   1. Adoption of the agenda 2. Decisions of other IMO bodies 3. Validated model training courses 4. Role of the human element 5. Reports on unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency 6. Implementation of the STCW Convention 7. Development of amendments to the revised guidelines for the development, review and validation of model courses (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.1) 8. Comprehensive review of the 1995 STCW-F Convention 9. Development of amendments to the STCW Convention and Code for the use of electronic certificates and documents of seafarers 10. Development of measures to ensure quality of training as part of the mandatory seagoing service required by the STCW Convention 11. Development of measures to facilitate mandatory seagoing service required under the STCW Convention 12. Development of training provisions for seafarers related to the BWM Convention 13. Biennial status report and provision agenda for HTW 8 14. Election of chair and vice-chair for 2022 15. Any other business 16. Report to the Maritime Safety Committee   Three working groups were established as follows:   1. Working Group on the implementation of the STCW Convention. The terms of reference of this group were:      1. As a matter of priority, finalize the draft streamlined guidance on the preparation, reporting and consideration of information related to the independent evaluations and steps taken to implement mandatory amendments required by regulations I/7 and I/8 of the STCW Convention, including unresolved issues identified in square brackets, based on document HTW 8/6, and taking into account documents HTW 8/6/2 and HTW 8/6/3, with a view to superseding MSC.1/Circ.1449. 2. If time permitted, finalize the draft procedures regarding the consideration of information communicated in accordance with article IV and regulation I/7 of the STCW Convention and section A-I/7, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the STCW Code, based on document HTW 8/6/1, with a view to superseding MSC.1/Circ.1448. 3. Consider whether it would be necessary to establish a correspondence group and, if so, prepare draft terms of reference for consideration by the Sub-Committee. 4. Working Group on the comprehensive review of the 1995 STCW-F Convention. The terms of reference of this group were: 5. Consider: 6. Draft definitions of "certificate of competency" and "certificate of proficiency", taking into account document HTW 8/8/3. 7. Draft amendment to regulation I/2 (Application) for inclusion of a third gross tonnage equivalence for the length of 12 m, taking into account documents HTW 7/8/7 and HTW 7/16, paragraph 8.28. 8. Draft amendment to regulation I/3 (Certificates and endorsements) introducing recognition of the certificate of proficiency on basic training issued in accordance with of STCW regulation VI/I in the context of the STCW-F Convention, taking into account document HTW 8/8/5. 9. Draft requirements for the certification of engineer officers, taking into account document HTW 8/8/4, primarily. 10. Draft provisions on marine environmental awareness focused on marine plastic litter and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, taking into account document HTW 8/8/1. 11. Consequential modifications of the draft STCW-F Convention and Code emanating from the GMDSS modernization, taking into account document HTW 8/8/2. 12. Any other unresolved issues in document HTW 8/WP.4. 13. With a view to finalisation: 14. Update the work plan for the completion of the comprehensive review of the STCW-F Convention, taking into account that the revised STCW-F Convention and the joint ILO/IMO guidelines on the medical examination of fishing vessel personnel should come into effect in a coordinated way. 15. finalize the draft MSC resolution on guidance on training of skippers, officers and engineer officers on how to prepare and respond against piracy and armed robbery 16. Prepare draft guidelines on the medical examination of fishing vessel personnel taking into account the Guidelines on the medical examination of seafarers (STCW.7/Circ.19/Rev.1). 17. Consider whether it would be necessary to re-establish a correspondence group to finalize the draft guidelines on the medical examination of fishing vessel personnel and, if so, prepare detailed draft terms of reference for consideration by the Sub-Committee.   3. Working Group on human element and maritime training. The terms of reference of this group were:  **Agenda item 4 – Role of the Human Element**  1. Prepare draft amendments to the *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety*  *Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies*  MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.2), based on the annex to document HTW 7/4/1 and taking into  account the comments by China, as set out in annex 1 to document HTW 8/1/2/Add.1.  2. Finalize draft guidance framework for the application of casualty cases and lessons learned  to seafarers' education and training, based on document HTW 7/4/2 and taking into account  the comments by ICS, as set out in annex 1 to document HTW 8/1/2/Add.1.    **Agenda item 7 – Development of amendments to the Revised guidelines for the development,**  **review and validation of model courses (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.1)**  3. Prepare draft amendments to the *Revised guidelines for the development, review and*  *validation of model courses* (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.1), based on annex 1 to document  HTW 7/7.  4. Consider the inclusion of guidance on learning outcomes in the Revised Guidelines, based  on annex 2 to document HTW 7/7 and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly.    **Agenda item 9 – Development of amendments to the STCW Convention and Code for the use of**  **electronic certificates and documents of seafarers**  5. Finalize the draft amendments to STCW regulation I/1; section A-I/2 of the STCW Code;  and the draft guidelines on the use of electronic certificates of seafarers and the associated  draft MSC circular, based on document HTW 8/9.    **Agenda item 15 – Any other business**  6. Consider the personnel, training and familiarization provisions of the draft interim guidelines  on safe operation of onshore power supply service in port for ships engaged on international  voyages, based on document HTW 7/WP.5, taking into account the areas to be considered  and comments made at HTW 7 (HTW 7/16, paragraphs 15.7 and 15.8, respectively), with a  view to advising MSC 105.    **General**  7. Consider whether it would be necessary to establish a correspondence group and, if so,  prepare draft terms of reference for consideration by the Sub-Committee. |
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| ATTACHMENTS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: |

