

VALIDATION OF MODEL TRAINING COURSES

MODEL COURSE – OPERATIONAL USE OF ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Submitted by International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Shipping
Federation (ISF), BIMCO, INTERTANKO and the Nautical Institute

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document comments on STW 43/3/1 which provides a revised draft model course on the operational use of Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS). The co-sponsors propose minor amendments for the model course that are intended to ensure that the course is a robust tool to ensure that officers trained, may safely and efficiently operate ECDIS.
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	5.2
<i>High-level action:</i>	5.2.4
<i>Planned output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 9
<i>Related documents:</i>	STW 43/3/1, MSC 89/24/2, MSC 89/24/3, MSC 90/10/1

1. This document comments on STW 43/3/1 provided by the Secretariat and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.4 on “Guidelines on the Organization and Method of Work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their Subsidiary Bodies”.

Introduction

2. The co-sponsors wish to thank the authors of the model course, the United States Merchant Marine Academy and the governments of the United States and Australia for their hard work in the revision of one of the most important IMO model courses.

3. The co-sponsors believe that to ensure effective, safe and appropriate use of ECDIS, robust training and familiarisation is required in both the principles and operation of ECDIS. In order to ensure that robust generic training is appropriate, the co-sponsors strongly support the use of this revised model course.

General Comments

4. The co-sponsors have reviewed the model course in detail and wish to highlight the following observations to the Sub-Committee:

- .1 Manufacturer specific words are used for functions that are not used on other ECDIS;
- .2 Additional ECDIS features are included in the model course, however it is essential that trainees are made aware that these are optional features; and
- .3 The level of detail in the specification of equipment required to deliver the course may be too specific (e.g. the size of computer monitors and type of operating system that computers should have are specified).

5. The co-sponsors consider that inclusion of ARPA functionality may result in the unintended consequence of ECDIS being used as a primary collision avoidance tool. The co-sponsors also note that it is inevitable that common displays will increasingly show both ECDIS and radar information. It is therefore recommended that particular care is taken during training to ensure that trainees are made aware of the importance of using the functionality and information appropriate to particular circumstances and situations.

Proposal

6. The co-sponsors note that throughout the model course there are some inconsistencies in terminology and regional terms are used. It is proposed that the following global changes are made to ensure consistency with IMO regulations, performance standards and other related documents:

Term used in Model Course	Proposed Term
ARPA	TT/ARPA
GPS	GNSS
DGPS	DGNSS
NMEA	NMEA/IEC 61162
PS1	Primary position sensor
PS2	Secondary position sensor
PC	ECDIS hardware
DNC	Other chart formats
USCG	National requirements
RIB	Radar overlay

7. The co-sponsors also consider that a helpful addition could be made to the introduction of the model course making it clear that the course is a general course that requires structured and complementary ship specific ECDIS familiarisation.

8. It is suggested that the course includes an introductory mention of the sophisticated nature of ECDIS and the need to ensure that ECDIS equipment is maintained in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's latest software and/or firmware updates. Further, students should be made aware of the types of possible '*Operating anomalies in ECDIS*' (MSC 89/24/2, MSC 89/24/3 and MSC 90/10/1) that some ECDIS equipment may display.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

9. The Sub-Committee is requested to note the information provided above, consider the proposals in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 and take action as appropriate.