The purpose of this information is to assist shipowners and operators with preparations for compliance with the special training requirements for personnel on ships operating in polar waters. It covers:

- Applicability of the requirements for the training and certification of personnel on ships operating in polar waters under Chapter 12 of the Polar Code and Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended;
- Training and certification of personnel in accordance with Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended; and
- Transitional provisions for the training and certification of personnel under Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

NOTE
Graphics are best viewed electronically to enable use of zoom functionality of the software or device, or printed in colour on size A3 paper (420 x 297 mm / 16.54” x 11.69”).

Graphics should be read from left to right, observing and recognizing that headings, keys, colours and symbols are used to illustrate concepts and relationships.
SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL ON SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS

Applicability of the requirements for the training and certification of personnel on ships operating in polar waters under Chapter 12 of the Polar Code and Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended

**EXISTING SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS**

Ships constructed before 1 January 2017 operating in polar waters

Until their first renewal or intermediate survey after 1 January 2018, existing ships operating in polar waters are to be manned by personnel qualified and certificated as required by the Administration.

**NEW SHIPS COMPLYING WITH THE POLAR CODE**

Ships constructed on or after 1 January 2017 operating in polar waters

**EXISTING SHIPS COMPLYING WITH THE POLAR CODE**

Ships constructed before 1 January 2017 are required to comply with the relevant requirements of the Polar Code by the first intermediate or renewal survey, whichever occurs first, after 1 January 2018. *

**SHIPs COMPLYING WITH THE POLAR CODE AND REGULATION V/4**

Until 1 July 2018, existing ships complying with the Polar Code are to be manned by personnel trained and certificated in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Polar Code, whilst taking into account that Regulation V/4 is not yet in force. Administrations may require personnel to complete courses meeting the provisions of the guidance in Section B/V/4 of the STCW Code, or qualified meeting the provisions of Regulation V/4 where approved at an early stage.

From 1 July 2018, all ships subject to the Polar Code are to be manned by personnel qualified and certificated in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Polar Code and Regulation V/4.

*MSC.1/Circ.1562 provides a unified interpretation of the initial and maintenance surveys pertaining to Polar Ship Certificates.

KEY

- Personnel qualified and certificated as required by the Administration for the ship type and operations.
- Personnel qualified and certificated as required by the Administration in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Polar Code, whilst taking into account that Regulation V/4 is not yet in force.
- Personnel qualified and certificated in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Polar Code and Regulation V/4.
SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL ON SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS

Training and certification of personnel in accordance with Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended

IDENTIFICATION

• Identification of Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch who will serve on ships operating in polar waters.

• Identification of the type of polar waters where the ship will be operating (i.e. ice free, open or other waters).*

• Identification of the type of ship that will be operated (i.e. tanker, passenger ship or other type of ship).

Type of polar waters
Ice free waters*

Type of ship
Any type of ship

Training requirement
No requirement for personnel to receive special training under the Polar Code

Type of polar waters
Open waters*

Type of ship
Ships other than tankers and passenger ships

Training requirement
No requirement for personnel to receive special training under the Polar Code

*Ice free waters means no ice is present.
Open waters means a large area of freely navigable water in which sea ice is present in concentrations less than 1/10, and no ice of land origin is present.
Other waters means, based on deduction, those with ice concentration of 1/10 or over.

TRAINING

Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) in Basic Training for ships operating in polar waters.

Completion of approved Basic Training for ships operating in polar waters.

IDENTIFICATION

Identification of Masters and chief mates operating ships in other waters.*

TRAINING

Completion of approved Advanced Training for ships operating in polar waters.

Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) in Advanced Training for ships operating in polar waters.

SERVICE

Completion of at least 2 months of approved seagoing service in the deck department within polar waters or other equivalent approved seagoing service.

KEY
Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch who are not required to be qualified and certificated in accordance with Regulation V/4.
Personnel qualified and certificated in Basic Training for ships operating in polar waters.
Personnel qualified and certificated in Advanced Training for ships operating in polar waters.
SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL ON SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS

Transitional provisions for the training and certification of personnel under Regulation V/4 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended

Available until 1 July 2020 for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018

**Identification**
- Identification of Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch who will serve on ships operating in polar waters.
- Identification of those that have approved seagoing service in polar waters, or equivalent approved seagoing service.

**Options**
- Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) in Basic Training for ships operating in polar waters
- Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) in Advanced Training for ships operating in polar waters

**Service**
- Personnel that have completed:
  - Approved seagoing service on board a ship operating in polar waters, performing duties in the deck department at the operational or management level, for a period of at least 3 months in total during the preceding 5 years;
  - Equivalent approved seagoing service performing duties in the deck department at the operational or management level, for a period of at least 3 months in total during the preceding 5 years.

**Training**
- Personnel that have completed a training course meeting the training guidance established by the IMO for ships operating in polar waters (Section B-V/g of the STCW Code).
- Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) in Basic Training for ships operating in polar waters
- Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) in Advanced Training for ships operating in polar waters

**Service**
- Personnel that have completed:
  - Approved seagoing service, performing duties in the deck department at the management level, for a period of at least 2 months in total during the preceding 5 years;
  - Equivalent approved seagoing service, performing duties in the deck department at the management level, for a period of at least 2 months in total during the preceding 5 years.

**Training**
- Personnel that have completed a training course meeting the training guidance established by the IMO for ships operating in polar waters (Section B-V/g of the STCW Code).

**Key**
- Personnel qualified and certificated in Basic Training for ships operating in polar waters.
- Personnel qualified and certificated in Advanced Training for ships operating in polar waters.