

SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN ELEMENT,
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
12th session
Agenda item 6

HTW 12/6/31
10 November 2025
Original: ENGLISH
Pre-session public release: ☒

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE 1978 STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

Proposed draft amendments to the STCW Code to address gap no.121

Submitted by ICS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides draft amendments to the STCW Code, in order to address gap no.121.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 6

Output: 6.17

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: HTW 11/11 and HTW 12/6

Background

1 The Sub-Committee, at its eleventh session, agreed to the list of gaps identified in the STCW Convention and Code, as set out in annex 1 to document HTW 11/WP.4. The Sub-Committee also agreed to the commencement of phase 2 of the comprehensive review (HTW 11/11, paragraphs 6.34 and 6.35).

2 This document provides draft amendments to the STCW Code, in order to address gap no.121, in relation to the inclusion of deck maintenance and instrument knowledge in the competencies to enhance operational safety.

Discussion

3 Under section A-II/5 (*mandatory minimum requirements for certification of ratings as able seafarer deck*), table A-II/5 (*specification of minimum standards of competence of ratings as able seafarer deck*) includes a function "maintenance and repair at the support level" wherein the competence "contribute to shipboard maintenance and repair" is specified.

4 However, a corresponding competence to monitor the able seafarer deck and manage the maintenance of deck machinery is not included within the tables for section A-II/2 (*mandatory minimum requirements for certification of masters and chief mates on ships of 500 gross tonnage or more*). ICS believes that the associated competence in section A-III/2

(mandatory minimum requirements for certification of chief engineer officers and second engineer officers on ships powered by main propulsion machinery of 3,000 kW propulsion power or more) within the function "maintenance and repair at the management level" may be similarly replicated for table A-II/2.

Information to support the proposed amendments

5 Taking into account the information for the submission of proposals for phase 2 of the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, as set out in document HTW 12/6 (Secretariat), information to support the proposed amendments is set out below:

Gap no.*121	
Related documents, if any:	ISWG-STCW 1/2/19
Action requested:	Introduction of a new competency within table A-II/2
Available evidence, data, research, etc., if any, to support the proposed amendments:	Not applicable
Voluntary assessment on the possible cumulative impact (if the proposal aims at adding new training requirements, provide information on the cumulative impact on seafarer's training/certification and possible measures to address the impact):	Information on the cumulative impact: No impact on certification for regulation II/2. Minimal impact on volume of training as most of KUPs specified are achieved by following a structured training programme during deck cadetship. No impact on Administration.
	Possible measures to address the cumulative impact: No suggestions

Proposal

6 It is proposed to amend table A-II/2, as set out in the annex.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the information and proposal in paragraphs 3 to 6 and the annex, and take action, as appropriate.

* Gap nos. are listed in the annex to document HTW 12/6.

ANNEX*

PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO TABLE A-II/2 OF THE CODE

CHAPTER II

Standards regarding the master and deck department

Section A-II/2

Mandatory minimum requirements for certification of masters and chief mates on ships of 500 gross tonnage or more

1 The following new competence and corresponding columns 2 to 4 are proposed to be inserted in table A-II/2 (specification of minimum standard of competence for masters and chief mates on ships of 500 gross tonnage or more):

"Function: Controlling the operation of the ship and care for persons on board at the management level"

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
...	...	...	...
Maintain safety and security of the ship's crew and passengers and the operational condition of life-saving, fire-fighting and other safety systems	Thorough knowledge of life-saving appliance regulations (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea) Organization of fire drills and abandon ship drills Maintenance of operational condition of life-saving, fire-fighting and other safety systems Actions to be taken to protect and safeguard all persons on board in emergencies Actions to limit damage and save the ship following a fire, explosion, collision or grounding	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from practical instruction and approved in-service training and experience	Procedures for monitoring fire-detection and safety systems ensure that all alarms are detected promptly and acted upon in accordance with established emergency procedures

* Tracked changes are used based on the existing provisions, which are provided in document HTW 12/6/1, i.e. "strikeout" for deleted text and "grey shading" to highlight all modifications and new insertions, including deleted text.

Column 1 Competence	Column 2 Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Column 3 Methods for demonstrating competence	Column 4 Criteria for evaluating competence
Manage safe and effective maintenance and repair procedures	<i>Theoretical knowledge</i> Deck maintenance practice <i>Practical knowledge</i> Manage safe and effective maintenance and repair procedures Planning maintenance, including statutory and class verifications Planning repairs	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved workshop training	Maintenance activities are correctly planned and carried out in accordance with technical, legislative, safety and procedural specifications Appropriate plans, specifications, materials and equipment are available for maintenance.
Develop emergency and damage control plans and handle emergency situations	Preparation of contingency plans for response to emergencies Ship construction, including damage control Methods and aids for fire prevention, detection and extinction Functions and use of life-saving appliances	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from approved in-service training and experience	Emergency procedures are in accordance with the established plans for emergency situations
...	...	...	...

"