

Ref.T2/2.03

**Officer of the navigational watch acting as the sole look-out
in periods of darkness**

1 At its sixty-fifth session (MSC 65/25, paragraphs 9.9 to 9.19) and at its sixty-sixth session (MSC 66/24, paragraphs 7.31 to 7.39), the Maritime Safety Committee decided by a majority that trials of the officer of the navigational watch acting as the sole look-out in periods of darkness should be discontinued in the future.

2 At MSC 65 and 66, the majority of the Committee expressed concern at the impact on safety of navigation if the practice of the officer of a navigational watch acting as the sole look-out in periods of darkness was allowed to continue and proliferate in the future. However, other delegations expressed the view that the documented results of the trials so far is an improvement of safety.

3 In view of the decision at MSC 65, the Committee recommended by a majority at its sixty-sixth session (MSC 66/24, paragraph 7.38) that Administrations take measures to ensure that trials of the officer of the navigational watch acting as the sole look-out in periods of darkness are discontinued not later than 31 December 1997.

4 Taking into account that Administrations having authorized such trials have declared that the trials will be concluded by the end of 1997, the Committee agreed to recommend that those Administrations submit the results of the trials and any recommendations and conclusions regarding these results to MSC 69 for its determination under regulation I/5 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW Convention), or regulation I/13 of the 1995 amendments to the STCW Convention, as appropriate.
