



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND  
LOAD LINES AND ON FISHING  
VESSELS SAFETY - 38th session  
Agenda item 2

DECISIONS OF OTHER IMO BODIES

Outcome of the twenty-fifth session of the Sub-Committee on  
Standards of Training and Watchkeeping

Note by the Secretariat

1 The Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW) held its twenty-fifth session from 17 to 21 January 1994 and its report has been circulated under symbol STW 25/6. Decisions and comments relevant to the work of the Sub-Committee are reported hereunder, with reference to sections and paragraphs of the above report of the STW Sub-Committee.

- 2 "4 CLARIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION OF THE 1978 STCW CONVENTION TO SHIPS OF LIMITED SIZE WHEN MEASURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1969 TONNAGE CONVENTION AND POSSIBLE REVIEW OF RESOLUTION A.540(13)

4.1 The Sub-Committee noted that the Committee (MSC 62/25, paragraphs 9.22 and 9.23) considered a proposal by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (MSC 62/23/7) to make it possible for ships of limited size, which, when measured in accordance with the 1969 Tonnage Convention due to enter into force, with respect to existing ships, on 18 July 1994, will have "gross tonnages" higher than the present "gross register tonnage" on which certification of the masters and officers are based, to maintain the existing certification requirements until the STCW Convention is amended to use the 1969 Tonnage Convention for establishing limits of certification requirements. The Committee agreed that a problem will exist for small ships when the 1969 Tonnage Convention enters fully into force in July 1994 and that a solution needs to be found before that date. It did not, however, agree with the proposal in MSC 62/23/7, annex, as such a solution would create other problems.

4.2 The United States (STW 25/3/14) proposed that the tonnage referred to in the STCW Convention should be based on the 1969 Tonnage Convention measurement system but that the Administration should have the discretion to allow existing seafarers affected by entry into force of the 1969 Tonnage Convention to continue in service on the same ships as was possible when assigned tonnage under the national tonnage measurement system. The United States proposed a draft MSC circular to this effect.

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4.3 As instructed, the Sub-Committee gave consideration to the application of the STCW Convention to certain ships when measured in accordance with the 1969 Tonnage Convention and prepared the draft MSC circular, given in annex 4\*, which the Committee was invited to approve for circulation to Member Governments and Parties to the STCW Convention, subject to review of the circular prior to the entry into force of the revised STCW Convention.

4.4 The Sub-Committee, being informed of the outcome of the thirty-seventh session of the SLF Sub-Committee with regard to practical application of resolution A.494(XII) in relation to tonnage by 18 July 1994 and the preparation of a draft Assembly resolution, which was adopted by the eighteenth Assembly (resolution A.758(18)), and having noted that a group of tonnage experts would meet during SLF 38 to deal with tonnage matters, instructed the Secretariat to bring annex 4 to the SLF Sub-Committee for information and comments.

4.5 Some Members expressed the view that Administrations may apply national tonnage measurement systems in determining the application of the STCW Convention in respect of ships that are less than 1,600 gross register tons under the national tonnage system and which operate exclusively to and from a port of the flag State and outside the waters subject to the jurisdiction of another State not engaged on an international voyage. Other Members observed that ships which are not engaged on international voyages are not subject to the 1969 Tonnage Convention and therefore there is no need to include this matter in the draft MSC circular.

4.6 The Netherlands was of the opinion that only the proposal for credit in respect of qualifying seagoing service was acceptable as an interim measure, as suggested in paragraph 3 of annex 4.

#### 5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Draft Convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for fishermen (STCW-F)

5.4 Mr. Y. Sasamura (Japan), in his capacity as chairman of the Working Group on development of the draft STCW-F Convention (STW 23/WP.7), informed the Sub-Committee that the Working Group had unanimously agreed, at the Sub-Committee's twenty-fourth session, that the draft STCW-F Convention should retain the principles incorporated in the 1978 STCW Convention, interdependent of the Sub-Committee's current work on the comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and that, if the draft STCW-F Convention was to be amended to harmonize it with the revised STCW Convention, this work could not be completed in time for the 1995 Conference.

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\* Attached as the annex to the present document

5.5 The Sub-Committee agreed in principle that the draft STCW-F Convention should retain the form contained in STW 23/WP.7/Add.1."

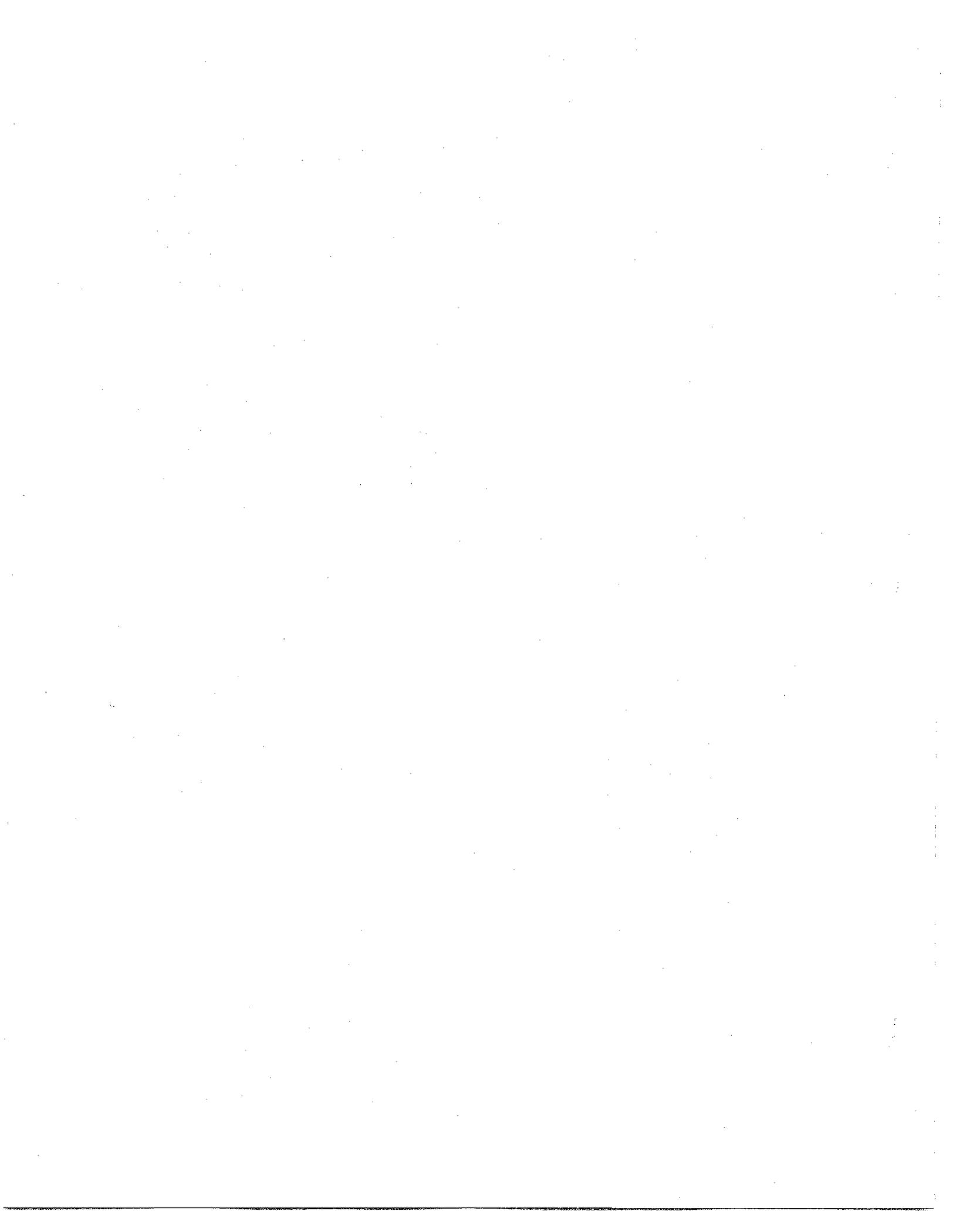
3 The STW Sub-Committee also agreed, as reported in paragraph 43 of annex 2 to STW 25/6, that the term "gross register tons" should be replaced by "gross tonnage" in the revised STCW Convention and, if a definition is needed, it should be prepared to make it clear that the 1969 Tonnage Convention applies only to ships which come under that Convention. For ships which are outside the scope of the Tonnage Convention, the tonnages assigned by their national laws should be used for the purpose of the STCW Convention.

4 Taking account of the progress made during the twenty-fifth session, the STW Sub-Committee reviewed and amended, for the Committee to note or comment, the draft proposed plan for the systematic review and revision of the STCW Convention, as set out in annex 3 to STW 25/6, which include, inter alia, tasks on the revision of a draft new Convention on fishermen's training and certification, in the light of the progress made on revision of the STCW Convention, to be completed by 15 July 1994 and on the finalization of the draft new Convention on fishermen's training and certification, to be completed by 16 December 1994, for forwarding, if authorized by MSC 64, directly to the Conference (July 1995), and to MSC 65 for consideration and endorsement.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the above information and take action as appropriate.

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ANNEX

## DRAFT MSC CIRCULAR

TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF CERTAIN SHIPS RELEVANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND  
WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, 1978

1 At its sixty-third session the Maritime Safety Committee recalled resolution A.540(13) on tonnage measurement for certain ships relevant to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), 1978 by which the thirteenth Assembly agreed that the revised interim scheme for tonnage measurement for certain ships, adopted by resolution A.494(XII), should also be applicable in respect of the provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention and invited Member Governments and States Parties to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 to accept the use of resolution A.494(XII) for application of the 1978 STCW Convention.

2 The Maritime Safety Committee also recalled that at its fiftieth session (MSC 50/27, paragraph 23.7) it agreed that the interim measurement schemes (resolution A.494(XII) and resolution A.540(13)) should be interpreted as follows:

- .1 All ships to which resolution A.494(XII) applies and which are assigned a certain value of gross tonnage, as determined by national systems, may retain that tonnage value for the purposes of the application of the 1974 SOLAS Convention for the life of the ship; and
- .2 Under resolution A.540(13) the same principle applies in relation to "gross register tons" for the 1978 STCW Convention.

3 The Maritime Safety Committee, recognizing that the interim scheme in resolutions A.494(XII) and A.540(13) will expire on 18 July 1994, agreed that, pending the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and possible changes in the tonnage thresholds, measures should be taken to allow seafarers who have served on board small ships to continue to serve on ships of equivalent physical size and type built after 18 July 1994 and measured under the Tonnage Convention of 1969. For this purpose, the Administration, when applying the STCW Convention to seafarers wishing to serve on board such ships, may have the discretion to give them credits for qualifying sea service on existing ships and if appropriate, also the level of knowledge acquired, for service on equivalent ships measured under the Tonnage Convention of 1969. In making such determinations, the Administration should take into account the size and type of the existing and new ships and consider the matter on a case by case basis. Administrations which have allowed seafarers to serve on the above-mentioned new ships by using such discretion should reflect this by issue of an appropriate endorsement or equivalent document to them for the purpose of the port State control.

4 Member Governments and States Parties to the aforementioned Conventions are invited to take recognizance and to accept this decision for the purpose of the application of the 1978 STCW Convention.

