

Excerpts from the International Convention on Standards of Training,  
Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

and

Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended

Notice: These excerpts are provided for background information only. By themselves, they do not constitute U. S. Coast Guard policy.

**The Manila Amendments to the annex to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978**

**Chapter I**  
General provisions

**Regulation I/6**

*Training and assessment*

Each Party shall ensure that:

- .1 the training and assessment of seafarers, as required under the Convention, are administered, supervised and monitored in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/6 of the STCW Code; and
- .2 those responsible for the training and assessment of competence of seafarers, as required under the Convention, are appropriately qualified in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/6 of the STCW Code for the type and level of training and assessment involved.

**Regulation I/12**

*Use of simulators*

1 The performance standards and other provisions set forth in section A-I/12 and such other requirements as are prescribed in part A of the STCW Code for any certificate concerned shall be complied with in respect of:

- .1 all mandatory simulator-based training;
- .2 any assessment of competency required by part A of the STCW Code which is carried out by means of a simulator; and
- .3 any demonstration, by means of a simulator, of continued proficiency required by part A of the STCW Code.

**Chapter II**  
Master and deck department

**Regulation II/5**

*Mandatory minimum requirements for certification of ratings as able seafarer deck*

1 Every able seafarer deck serving on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more shall be duly certificated.

2 Every candidate for certification shall:

- .1 be not less than 18 years of age;
- .2 meet the requirements for certification as a rating forming part of a navigational watch;
- .3 while qualified to serve as a rating forming part of a navigational watch, have approved seagoing service in the deck department of:

**.3.1** not less than 18 months, or

**.3.2** not less than 12 months and have completed approved training; and

**.4** meet the standard of competence specified in section A-II/5 of the STCW Code.

**3** Every Party shall compare the standards of competence which it required of Able Seamen for certificates issued before 1 January 2012 with those specified for the certificate in section A-II/5 of the STCW Code, and shall determine the need, if any, for requiring these personnel to update their qualifications.

**4** Until 1 January 2012, a Party which is also a Party to the International Labour Organization Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946 (No. 74) may continue to issue, recognize and endorse certificates in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid convention.

**5** Until 1 January 2017, a Party which is also a Party to the International Labour Organization Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946 (No. 74) may continue to renew and revalidate certificates and endorsements in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid convention.

**6** Seafarers may be considered by the Party to have met the requirements of this regulation if they have served in a relevant capacity in the deck department for a period of not less than 12 months within the last 60 months preceding the entry into force of this regulation for that Party.

**The Manila Amendments to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping  
(STCW) Code**

**Chapter I**

Standards regarding general provisions

**Section A-I/6**

*Training and assessment*

**1** Each Party shall ensure that all training and assessment of seafarers for certification under the Convention is:

- .1** structured in accordance with written programmes, including such methods and media of delivery, procedures, and course material as are necessary to achieve the prescribed standard of competence; and
- .2** conducted, monitored, evaluated and supported by persons qualified in accordance with paragraphs 4, 5 and 6.

**2** Persons conducting in-service training or assessment on board ship shall only do so when such training or assessment will not adversely affect the normal operation of the ship and they can dedicate their time and attention to training or assessment.

**Qualifications of instructors, supervisors and assessors\***

**3** Each Party shall ensure that instructors, supervisors and assessors are appropriately qualified for the particular types and levels of training or assessment of competence of seafarers either on board or ashore, as required under the Convention, in accordance with the provisions of this section.

**In-service training**

**4** Any person conducting in-service training of a seafarer, either on board or ashore, which is intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention, shall:

- .1** have an appreciation of the training programme and an understanding of the specific training objectives for the particular type of training being conducted;
- .2** be qualified in the task for which training is being conducted; and
- .3** if conducting training using a simulator:
  - .3.1** have received appropriate guidance in instructional techniques involving the use of simulators; and

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\* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.

- .3.2 have gained practical operational experience on the particular type of simulator being used.

5 Any person responsible for the supervision of in-service training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention shall have a full understanding of the training programme and the specific objectives for each type of training being conducted.

### **Assessment of competence**

6 Any person conducting in-service assessment of competence of a seafarer, either on board or ashore, which is intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention, shall:

- .1 have an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding of the competence to be assessed;
- .2 be qualified in the task for which the assessment is being made;
- .3 have received appropriate guidance in assessment methods and practice;
- .4 have gained practical assessment experience; and
- .5 if conducting assessment involving the use of simulators, have gained practical assessment experience on the particular type of simulator under the supervision and to the satisfaction of an experienced assessor.

### **Training and assessment within an institution**

7 Each Party which recognizes a course of training, a training institution, or a qualification granted by a training institution, as part of its requirements for the issue of a certificate required under the Convention, shall ensure that the qualifications and experience of instructors and assessors are covered in the application of the quality standard provisions of section A-I/8. Such qualification, experience and application of quality standards shall incorporate appropriate training in instructional techniques, and training and assessment methods and practice, and shall comply with all applicable requirements of paragraphs 4 to 6.

### **Section A-I/12**

*Standards governing the use of simulators*

### **Part 1 – Performance standards**

#### **General performance standards for simulators used in training**

- 1 Each Party shall ensure that any simulator used for mandatory simulator-based training shall:
- .1 be suitable for the selected objectives and training tasks;

- .2 be capable of simulating the operating capabilities of shipboard equipment concerned, to a level of physical realism appropriate to training objectives, and include the capabilities, limitations and possible errors of such equipment;
- .3 have sufficient behavioural realism to allow a trainee to acquire the skills appropriate to the training objectives;
- .4 provide a controlled operating environment, capable of producing a variety of conditions, which may include emergency, hazardous or unusual situations relevant to the training objectives;
- .5 provide an interface through which a trainee can interact with the equipment, the simulated environment and, as appropriate, the instructor; and
- .6 permit an instructor to control, monitor and record exercises for the effective debriefing of trainees.

**General performance standards for simulators used in assessment of competence**

2 Each Party shall ensure that any simulator used for the assessment of competence required under the Convention or for any demonstration of continued proficiency so required shall:

- .1 be capable of satisfying the specified assessment objectives;
- .2 be capable of simulating the operational capabilities of the shipboard equipment concerned to a level of physical realism appropriate to the assessment objectives, and include the capabilities, limitations and possible errors of such equipment;
- .3 have sufficient behavioural realism to allow a candidate to exhibit the skills appropriate to the assessment objectives;
- .4 provide an interface through which a candidate can interact with the equipment and simulated environment;
- .5 provide a controlled operating environment, capable of producing a variety of conditions, which may include emergency, hazardous or unusual situations relevant to assessment objectives; and
- .6 permit an assessor to control, monitor and record exercises for the effective assessment of the performance of candidates.

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## **Part 2 – Other provisions**

### **Simulator training objectives**

6 Each Party shall ensure that the aims and objectives of simulator-based training are defined within an overall training programme and that specific training objectives and tasks are selected so as to relate as closely as possible to shipboard tasks and practices.

### **Training procedures**

7 In conducting mandatory simulator-based training, instructors shall ensure that:

- .1 trainees are adequately briefed beforehand on the exercise objectives and tasks and are given sufficient planning time before the exercise starts;
- .2 trainees have adequate familiarization time on the simulator and with its equipment before any training or assessment exercise commences;
- .3 guidance given and exercise stimuli are appropriate to the selected exercise objectives and tasks and to the level of trainee experience;
- .4 exercises are effectively monitored, supported as appropriate by audio and visual observation of trainee activity and pre- and post-exercise evaluation reports;
- .5 trainees are effectively debriefed to ensure that training objectives have been met and that operational skills demonstrated are of an acceptable standard;
- .6 the use of peer assessment during debriefing is encouraged; and
- .7 simulator exercises are designed and tested so as to ensure their suitability for the specified training objectives.

### **Assessment procedures**

8 Where simulators are used to assess the ability of candidates to demonstrate levels of competency, assessors shall ensure that:

- .1 performance criteria are identified clearly and explicitly and are valid and available to the candidates;
- .2 assessment criteria are established clearly and are explicit to ensure reliability and uniformity of assessment and to optimize objective measurement and evaluation, so that subjective judgements are kept to the minimum;
- .3 candidates are briefed clearly on the tasks and/or skills to be assessed and on the tasks and performance criteria by which their competency will be determined;

- .4 assessment of performance takes into account normal operating procedures and any behavioural interaction with other candidates on the simulator or with simulator staff;
- .5 scoring or grading methods to assess performance are used with caution until they have been validated; and
- .6 the prime criterion is that a candidate demonstrates the ability to carry out a task safely and effectively to the satisfaction of the assessor.

**Qualifications of instructors and assessors\***

9 Each Party shall ensure that instructors and assessors are appropriately qualified and experienced for the particular types and levels of training and corresponding assessment of competence as specified in regulation I/6 and section A-I/6.

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\* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) and resolution MSC.64(67), *Recommendations on new and amended performance standards*, may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.

## **Chapter II**

### Standards regarding the master and deck department

#### **Section A-II/5**

*Mandatory minimum requirements for certification of ratings as able seafarer deck*

#### **Standard of competence**

- 1** Every able seafarer deck serving on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more shall be required to demonstrate the competence to perform the functions at the support level, as specified in column 1 of table A-II/5.
- 2** The minimum knowledge, understanding and proficiency required of an able seafarer deck serving on a seagoing ship of 500 gross tonnage or more is listed in column 2 of table A-II/5.
- 3** Every candidate for certification shall be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence specified in columns 3 and 4 of table A-II/5.

**Table A-II/5***Specification of minimum standards of competence of ratings as able seafarer deck***Function: Navigation at the support level**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>	<b>Column 4</b>
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>	<b>Criteria for evaluating competence</b>
Contribute to a safe navigational watch	<p>Ability to understand orders and to communicate with the officer of the watch on matters relevant to watchkeeping duties</p> <p>Procedures for the relief, maintenance and handover of a watch</p> <p>Information required to maintain a safe watch</p>	Assessment of evidence obtained from in-service experience or practical test	<p>Communications are clear and concise</p> <p>Maintenance, handover and relief of the watch is in conformity with acceptable practices and procedures</p>
Contribute to berthing, anchoring and other mooring operations	<p>Working knowledge of the mooring system and related procedures, including:</p> <p>.1 the function of mooring and tug lines and how each line functions as part of an overall system</p> <p>.2 the capacities, safe working loads, and breaking strengths of mooring equipment, including mooring wires, synthetic and fibre lines, winches, anchor windlasses, capstans, bitts, chocks and bollards</p> <p>.3 the procedures and order of events for making fast and letting go mooring and tug lines and wires, including towing lines</p> <p>.4 the procedures and order of events for the use of anchors in various operations</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <p>.1 approved in-service experience</p> <p>.2 practical training</p> <p>.3 examination</p> <p>.4 approved training ship experience</p> <p>.5 approved simulator training, where appropriate</p>	Operations are carried out in accordance with established safety practices and equipment operating instructions

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>	<b>Criteria for evaluating competence</b>
	Working knowledge of the procedures and order of events associated with mooring to a buoy or buoys		

**Function: Cargo handling and stowage at the support level**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>	<b>Column 4</b>
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>	<b>Criteria for evaluating competence</b>
Contribute to the handling of cargo and stores	<p>Knowledge of procedures for safe handling, stowage and securing of cargoes and stores, including dangerous, hazardous and harmful substances and liquids</p> <p>Basic knowledge of and precautions to observe in connection with particular types of cargo and identification of IMDG labelling</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <p>.1 approved in-service experience</p> <p>.2 practical training</p> <p>.3 examination</p> <p>.4 approved training ship experience</p> <p>.5 approved simulator training, where appropriate</p>	<p>Cargo and stores operations are carried out in accordance with established safety procedures and equipment operating instructions</p> <p>The handling of dangerous, hazardous and harmful cargoes or stores complies with established safety practices</p>

**Function: Controlling the operation of the ship and care for persons on board at the support level**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>	<b>Column 4</b>
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>	<b>Criteria for evaluating competence</b>
Contribute to the safe operation of deck equipment and machinery	<p>Knowledge of deck equipment, including:</p> <p>.1 function and uses of valves and pumps, hoists, cranes, booms, and related equipment</p> <p>.2 function and uses of winches, windlasses, capstans and related equipment</p> <p>.3 hatches, watertight doors, ports, and related equipment</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <p>.1 approved in-service experience</p> <p>.2 practical training</p> <p>.3 examination</p> <p>.4 approved training ship experience</p>	<p>Operations are carried out in accordance with established safety practices and equipment operating instructions</p>

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
<p>Contribute to the safe operation of deck equipment and machinery <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>.4 fibre and wire ropes, cables and chains, including their construction, use, markings, maintenance and proper stowage</p> <p>.5 ability to use and understand basic signals for the operation of equipment, including winches, windlasses, cranes, and hoists</p> <p>.6 ability to operate anchoring equipment under various conditions, such as anchoring, weighing anchor, securing for sea, and in emergencies</p> <p>Knowledge of the following procedures and ability to:</p> <p>.1 rig and unrig bosun's chairs and staging</p> <p>.2 rig and unrig pilot ladders, hoists, rat-guards and gangways</p> <p>.3 use marlin spike seamanship skills, including the proper use of knots, splices and stoppers</p> <p>Use and handling of deck and cargo-handling gear and equipment:</p> <p>.1 access arrangements, hatches and hatch covers, ramps, side/bow/stern doors or elevators</p> <p>.2 pipeline systems – bilge and ballast suctions and wells</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration</p> <p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration</p> <p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration</p>	<p>Communications within the operator's area of responsibility are consistently successful</p> <p>Equipment operation is safely carried out in accordance with established procedures</p> <p>Demonstrate the proper methods for rigging and unrigging in accordance with safe industry practice</p> <p>Demonstrate the proper creation and use of knots, splices, stoppers, whippings, servings as well as proper canvas handling</p>

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Contribute to the safe operation of deck equipment and machinery <i>(continued)</i>	.3 cranes, derricks, winches  Knowledge of hoisting and dipping flags and the main single-flag signals. (A, B, G, H, O, P, Q)		Demonstrate the proper use of blocks and tackle  Demonstrate the proper methods for handling lines, wires, cables and chains
Apply occupational health and safety precautions	Working knowledge of safe working practices and personal shipboard safety including:  .1 working aloft .2 working over the side .3 working in enclosed spaces .4 permit to work systems .5 line handling .6 lifting techniques and methods of preventing back injury .7 electrical safety .8 mechanical safety .9 chemical and biohazard safety .10 personal safety equipment	Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:  .1 approved in-service experience .2 practical training .3 examination .4 approved training ship experience	Procedures designed to safeguard personnel and the ship are observed at all times  Safe working practices are observed and appropriate safety and protective equipment is correctly used at all times

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Apply precautions and contribute to the prevention of pollution of the marine environment	<p>Knowledge of the precautions to be taken to prevent pollution of the marine environment</p> <p>Knowledge of the use and operation of anti-pollution equipment</p> <p>Knowledge of the approved methods for disposal of marine pollutants</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <p>.1 approved in-service experience</p> <p>.2 practical training</p> <p>.3 examination</p> <p>.4 approved training ship experience</p>	<p>Procedures designed to safeguard the marine environment are observed at all times</p>
Operate survival craft and rescue boats	<p>Knowledge of the operation of survival craft and rescue boats, their launching appliances and arrangements, and their equipment</p> <p>Knowledge of survival at sea techniques</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved training and experience as set out in section A-VI/2, paragraphs 1 to 4</p>	<p>Actions in responding to abandon ship and survival situations are appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions and comply with accepted safety practices and standards</p>

**Function: Maintenance and repair at the support level**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>	<b>Column 4</b>
<b>Competence</b>	<b>Knowledge, understanding and proficiency</b>	<b>Methods for demonstrating competence</b>	<b>Criteria for evaluating competence</b>
Contribute to shipboard maintenance and repair	<p>Ability to use painting, lubrication and cleaning materials and equipment</p> <p>Ability to understand and execute routine maintenance and repair procedures</p> <p>Knowledge of surface preparation techniques</p> <p>Understanding manufacturer's safety guidelines and shipboard instructions</p> <p>Knowledge of safe disposal of waste materials</p> <p>Knowledge of the application, maintenance and use of hand and power tools</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from practical demonstration</p> <p>Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <p>.1 approved in-service experience</p> <p>.2 practical training</p> <p>.3 examination</p> <p>.4 approved training ship experience</p>	Maintenance and repair activities are carried out in accordance with technical, safety and procedural specifications

**GUIDANCE REGARDING PROVISIONS OF THE ANNEX TO  
THE STCW CONVENTION  
PART B**

**Chapter I**

Guidance regarding general provisions

**Section B-I/6**

*Guidance regarding training and assessment*

**Qualifications of instructors and assessors**

**1** Each Party should ensure that instructors and assessors are appropriately qualified and experienced for the particular types and levels of training or assessment of competence of seafarers, as required under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines in this section.

**In-service training and assessment**

**2** Any person, on board or ashore, conducting in-service training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have received appropriate guidance in instructional techniques\*.

**3** Any person responsible for the supervision of in-service training of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have appropriate knowledge of instructional techniques and of training methods and practice.

**4** Any person, on board or ashore, conducting an in-service assessment of the competence of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have:

- .1** received appropriate guidance in assessment methods and practice\*; and
- .2** gained practical assessment experience under the supervision and to the satisfaction of an experienced assessor.

**5** Any person responsible for the supervision of the in-service assessment of competence of a seafarer intended to be used in qualifying for certification under the Convention should have a full understanding of the assessment system, assessment methods and practice\*.

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**Chapter II**

Guidance regarding the master and the deck department

**Section B-II/5**

*Guidance regarding the certification of ratings as able seafarer deck*

Onboard training should be documented in an approved training record book.

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\* The relevant IMO Model Course(s) may be of assistance in the preparation of courses.