



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 138

ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (ECDIS) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

**Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations,
Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and
Masters, Seafarers, duly authorised Manning Agents and Training
Centers**

1. Purpose

This Bulletin outlines the Bahamas training requirements for applicable officers serving onboard ships fitted with Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS).

2. Application

2.1. This Bulletin applies to officers serving onboard ships fitted with ECDIS and Companies providing the officers for such vessels.

2.2.1 The applicable officers of Bahamas registered vessels, which have ECDIS as the primary means of navigation, are required to have completed both generic and ship specific ECDIS training.

2.2.2 The applicable officers of Bahamas registered vessels, which have ECDIS fitted but it is not used as the primary means of navigation, are required to have completed generic ECDIS training no later than 31 December 2016.

2.3 For the purpose of this Bulletin, the following definitions apply:

- i. *Approved training* is training that satisfies the requirements of *STCW A/V* and has been approved by the Bahamas or a *STCW* party with which The Bahamas has a recognition agreement,

- ii. Company is the entity who has accepted responsibility for the assignment of seafarers for service onboard Bahamian registered ships in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14.
Where the ship is required to comply with the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, the Company is the entity, designated under SOLAS Chapter IX/1.2 that assumes the duties and responsibilities imposed by ISM Code
- iii Officer is the Master, Navigation Officer and any other officer engaged in the operation of the ECDIS

3. General

- 3.1 The IMO Resolution MSC. 282 (86) on amendments to SOLAS, include the mandatory carriage of ECDIS for certain ships, including passenger ships, tankers and other cargo ships. These amendments entered into force on 01 January 2011. Implementation dates for mandatory carriage of ECDIS for these vessels will be phased commencing 01 July 2012.
- 3.2 Effective 01 January 2012, training in safe navigation using ECDIS will be a mandatory requirement in the 2010 amendments to International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW) and the Seafarers Training, Certification and Watch-keeping Seafarers Code (STCW Code) for all officers serving on vessels fitted with ECDIS.
- 3.3 Guidance on training and assessment in the operational use of ECDIS is provided in paragraphs 36 ~ 65 of the 2010 STCW Code Part B-1/12.
- 3.4 **The BMA is only engaged in ECDIS training approval relating to officers who have been issued Bahamas Certificate of Competency and for training centers which are located in The Bahamas.**
- 3.5 ISM Code requires that the officers are competent in the use of ECDIS to maintain safety of navigation. The affected officers may be expected to demonstrate their competence to Bahamas duly authorised officials, Port State Control officers and other duly authorised officials.

4 ECDIS Generic Training

- 4.1 The Officers who have not completed training in ECDIS as part of their Certificate of Competency shall have completed an approved training on use of ECDIS.
- 4.2 The training should satisfy the requirements of IMO model course 1.27 or equivalent and shall be approved by an STCW party.

5 ECDIS Ship Specific Equipment Training

- 5.1.1 The ship specific ECDIS training should relate to the make and model of the ECDIS equipment installed on the ship. This should build on the generic training, and be delivered by either:
- i. the manufacturer; or
 - ii. the manufacturer's approved agent, or
 - iii. a trainer who has attended such a programme.
- 5.1.2 A manufacturer's approved computer based training package can be accepted for this purpose.
- 5.1.3 Where the assigned trainer is a shipboard officer, the Company shall have a standardised documented training and assessment process to ensure :
- i. the consistency of training for the trainee, and
 - ii. the continued updating of the knowledge of the assigned trainer.
- 5.1.4 Where the training is carried out onboard, a record shall be maintained of all training carried out and where applicable, details of the qualification of the assigned trainer/assessor.
- 5.2 If the generic training course has been undertaken on the same type of equipment and the course certificate makes reference to the equipment type, this should be accepted as satisfying the ECDIS ship specific requirement.

6. Documentary Evidence of ECDIS training

- 6.1 All applicable officers who have completed ECDIS training shall have documentary evidence of such training and this documentary evidence should be available on board for inspections.
- 6.2 Certificate of Competency issued to officers in accordance with the 2010 STCW amendments should be taken as prima facie evidence that ECDIS generic training has been carried out.
- 6.3 In accordance with Section 6.3 and 6.5 of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, the company should ensure that ECDIS ship specific equipment training process and record-keeping is documented in the ships Safety Management System
- 6.4 It is the responsibility of the Company to ensure that if required, the ship specific ECDIS equipment training is carried out and the Master shall ensure that all affected officers have documentary evidence of ECDIS training prior to be assigned their shipboard navigational duties.

7. Enquiries

Any queries related to the ECDIS training requirements can be directed to the BMA's Seafarers & Manning Department at: stcw@bahamasmaritime.com

8. Revision History

Rev.1 (11 January 2012)