

	STCW Circ 2013-001 (Rev 3)		
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)		
	<b>Security Training for Seafarers</b>	Ref	STCW Section A/VI/6  STCW.7/Circ.21

**Companies operating ships registered in Antigua and Barbuda,  
Ships registered in Antigua and Barbuda,  
Authorised Filing Agents**

**Introduction.**

Circular STCW 1998-001 (*Responsibilities of Companies*), outlines the essential responsibilities for Companies in terms of the STCW Convention. That Convention was amended in 2010 (The Manila Amendments) and some of these came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

Of particular importance are the changes in Security training required for seafarers. This training is required by all personnel employed or engaged on seagoing ships to which the ISPS Code applies. These regulations will be enforced and subjected to Port State Control inspections starting on January 1, 2014. This Circular sets out the requirements and the processes for approval of training.

In view of delays in setting up of “**approved**” training, the IMO issued circular STCW.7/Circ.21 giving advice to Port State Control officers, recognized organizations and recognized security organizations that **until 1 July 2015**, even if a seafarer’s security training certification is not fully in accordance with the STCW Convention, it would be sufficient to accept compliance with section 13 of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

**The STCW VI/6 requirements.**

There are now three levels of security training:

**1. Security-related familiarisation training:**

The amended requirement states that **approved** security-related familiarisation training must be conducted by the Ship Security Officer to all persons employed or engaged in any capacity on ships which are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code, prior to them being assigned shipboard duties. This training should emphasize ship security issues and provide guidance for seafarers to at least be able to:

- report a security incident, including a piracy or armed robbery threat or attack;
- know the procedures to follow when they recognize a security threat; and
- take part in security-related emergency and contingency procedures.

In this, the approach is very similar to that adopted in STCW VI/1 for Safety Familiarisation Training and it is anticipated that the Security Related Familiarisation Training will normally

be incorporated into the normal safety familiarisation training programme and incorporated into the ship's ISM system.

Documentary evidence must be kept by the ship to demonstrate that this training has been completed. The existing method of recording the *safety familiarisation training* may be adopted to document the completion of the *security-related familiarisation training*.

Approval of training.

The amended requirement states that the security related familiarisation training must be "approved". ADOMS will accept that any security familiarisation training that is included in the "approved" ship security manual and which covers the material in Section A-VI/6 paragraph 1 may be regarded as "approved" for the purposes of the STCW requirement.

Trainers.

The STCW says that the person delivering the training should be the ship's Security Officer or an "equally qualified person". ADOMS would confirm that any person holding a Ship Security Officer certificate is regarded as an "equally qualified person" for the purposes of delivering this training.

## **2. Security awareness training:**

In addition to the security-related familiarisation training, security awareness training must be undertaken by all seafarers without designated security duties employed or engaged in any capacity on ships which are required to comply with the ISPS Code. This training leads to the issuance of an STCW Certificate of Proficiency meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraph 4, of the STCW Code. On completion of this training, a seafarer will at least be able to:

- contribute to the enhancement of maritime security through heightened awareness;
- recognize security threats; and
- understand the need for, and methods of, maintaining security awareness and vigilance.

This training will generally be part of a shore based course which is approved.

Transitional provisions:

The Manila Amendments allowed for a transitional period during which seafarers who commenced service prior to the date of entry of the requirement can satisfy this security awareness training by demonstrating:

- approved seagoing service for at least 6 months in the previous three years; or
- having performed security functions considered equivalent to 6 months service in the past three years, or
- by passing an approved test, or
- by completing approved training.

That transition period ended on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and owners are reminded that they need to ensure that all seafarers who require this training acquire the appropriate documentary evidence of training before that date.

However ADOMS has been advised that in some countries final approval of some security awareness training courses has not yet been completed . Seafarers who have been serving on board after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, and who have not been able to attend an approved security awareness training course in accordance with STCW Section A-VI/6.4 prior to joining will not be in possession of documentation showing attendance at an “approved” course.

For these seafarers, and until courses are approved in their country of origin, ADOMS will accept documentary evidence of attendance at any security awareness course that covers the subject material in STCW Table A-VI/6-1 even though the course may not yet be “approved” by the administration in the country of origin. On completion of their contracts these seafarers should complete the approved training before engaging another contract and in any event the seafarer shall have evidence of completing an approved course by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at the latest.

### **3. *Seafarers with designated security duties:***

This training must be undertaken by seafarers, employed or engaged in any capacity on ships which are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code, who have designated duties under the ships security plan, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery-related activities. This training leads to the issuance of a STCW Certificate of Proficiency meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6-8, of the STCW Code 1978, as amended. On completion of this training, a seafarer will at least be able to:

- maintain the conditions set out in a ship security plan;
- recognize security risks and threats;
- undertake regular security inspections; and
- properly use security equipment and systems.

Like the Security Awareness training, this requirement had transitional provisions in place until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Seafarers with designated security duties who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to January 1, 2014 can demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code 1978 until 1 January 2014 by:

- Having approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel with designated security duties, for a period of at least 6 months in total during the preceding 3 years, or
- Having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required above, or
- Passing an approved test, or
- Completing approved training.

These are transitional provisions and after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 these seafarers must have the full documentation required by Section A-VI/6 paragraph 6.

Certificates of proficiency on security-related training in security awareness Section A-VI/6 (4) and in designated security duties Section A-VI/6 (6-8) issued by Member Parties of the STCW Convention will be recognized by Antigua and Barbuda.

As with the requirements for Security awareness training, it has been reported that some seafarers have been unable to obtain “approved” training to meet the Standard of Competence for seafarers with designated security duties. [Table A-VI/6-2]. The method for demonstrating competence for this standard as set out in column 3 of the table is “evidence from approved instruction or attendance at an approved course”. In the case of seafarers

with designated security duties who have joined ships before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and who have not been able to attend “approved” training before joining, ADOMS will accept that they may remain on board after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 until the end of their contract provided that they have documentary evidence of having attended some other security training that covers the topics in Table A-VI/6-2 . On completion of their contracts these seafarers should complete the approved training before engaging another contract and in any event the seafarer shall have evidence of completing an approved course by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at the latest.

For the avoidance of doubt it is confirmed that seafarers who have a certificate of proficiency as ship security officer [Section A-VI/5] are considered to have met both the “approved” security awareness training and the “approved” security training for seafarers with designated security duties.

Seafarers without designated security duties must complete the security awareness training set out in Section A-VI/6 of the STCW Code 1978, as amended, at least one time in their career.

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March 2014.