

	STCW Circ 2013-001		
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)		
	Security Training for Seafarers	Ref	STCW Section A/VI/6

**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 of Companies in terms of the STCW Convention. That Convention was amended in 2010 (The Manila Amendments) and some of these come into force on 1st 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 clarifies the meaning of “approved” training in so far as Antigua and Barbuda ships are concerned.

The STCW VI/6 requirements.

There are now three levels of security training:

Security-related familiarisation training:

The amended requirement states that **approved** security-related familiarisation training must be conducted by the Ship Security Officer for 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 emphasise ship security issues and provide guidance for seafarers so that they are 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”. In general every affected ship is required to have a ship security plan. Section 9.4 of the ISPS Code says that the plan must include:

“9. procedures for training, drills and exercises associated with the plan;”

Provided that a section of the plan details the provision of familiarisation training which matches the requirements in Chapter VI/6 of the STCW Convention which says the training should ensure that all seafarers should 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.

then it may be accepted that the training is “approved” training on the basis that the ship security plan is approved with this element included.

The familiarisation training may also be included in the ship’s ISM system with the normal safety familiarisation training, but as the ISM system is not subject to approval, it **MUST** be included in the approved ship security plan.

Where the ship security plan does not include a clear reference to security familiarisation training for all seafarers on board meeting the STCW requirements, then owners should seek to make the necessary changes as soon as possible and have the amendments approved by their RSO as part of the normal process of approving amendments.

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.

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. ADOMS will accept any training course which is approved by a member state signatory to the STCW Convention.

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 will end on 1st January 2014 and owners are reminded of the need to ensure that all seafarers who require this training acquire the appropriate documentary evidence of training before that date.

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 has transitional provisions in place until 1st 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, as amended, 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.

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

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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