



# PACIFIC MARINE SERVICES

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**CIRCULAR**

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## Security Awareness Training or security training for Seafarers

**Notice to :**

**Ship Owners / Manager / operators / Surveyors**

**Following the STCW Convention Manila.**

**Amendments implemented on 2010, as of January 1, 2014 all seafarers engaged on board ships must successfully complete security training.**

**Dear Sirs,**

Security training is required for all seafarers employed or engaged on seagoing ships to which the provisions of the ISPS Code apply. The training must be completed prior the seafarers being assigned shipboard duties. Following the Manila Amendments, security training should be received by seafarers designated to perform security duties as well as by seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship that the ISPS Code applies.

### **Security-related familiarization training.**

The security-related familiarization training should be received by all persons employed on a seagoing ship to which the ISPS Code applies 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.

Documentary evidence must be kept to demonstrate that this training has been completed. Existing methods of recording the safety familiarization training may be used to document the completion of the security-related familiarization training.

### **Who can carry out the security-related familiarization training?**

As per the STCW Code Section A-VI/6 paragraph 3, the person delivering the training should be the Ship Security Officer or an equally qualified person. The owners and/or managers should contact the flag Administration the ship is flying to confirm that any person holding a Ship Security Officer certificate is regarded as an equally qualified person for the purposes of delivering this training.

### **How to implement on board the security-related familiarization training:**

Owners and/or managers may employ any of the two methods outlined below for this training onboard:

- Amend the Ship Security Plan at the section of training, drills and exercises (as per ISPS Code Section 9.4) in order to include the requirements of this training course; or
- Include this training into the safety management system of the ship.

In case owners and/or managers carry out amendments to the applicable section of the Ship Security Plan then these should follow the requirements in Section A-VI/6 of the STCW Code. In this case the training is accepted as an approved training course on the basis that the Ship Security Plan is approved with the required elements included.



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If the ship security plan does not make a clear reference to security familiarization training for all seafarers on board meeting the STCW requirements (as outlined above), then owners and/or managers should carry out necessary amendments and submit the Ship Security Plan to **P.M.S** Head Office for re-approval.

On the other hand, if the security training is part of the ship's existing Safety Management System (SMS) then, since the SMS is not approved, the Ship Security Plan should be amended to include the security-related familiarization training and submitted to **P.M.S** Head Office for review and approval.

## **Security awareness training.**

In addition to the above training, security awareness training must be carried out by all seafarers without designated security duties employed or engaged in any capacity on ships which the provisions of the ISPS Code apply.

Upon successful completion of the security awareness training, an STCW Certificate of Proficiency should be issued meeting the requirements of Section AVI/6, paragraph 4, of the STCW Code and the seafarer will at least be able to:

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

This training should generally be part of a shore based course which is approved and the seafarers without designated security duties on board must complete the security awareness training at least one time in their career.

## **Transitional provisions:**

As per the STCW Code Section A-VI/6, paragraph 5 until January 1, 2014, seafarers who have started 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.

Since this transition period will end on January 1, 2014 owners and/or managers should ensure that all seafarers who require this training acquire the appropriate documentary evidence of training before this date.

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

All seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on ships to which the provisions of the ISPS Code apply, who have designated duties under the Ships Security Plan, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery-related activities shall be trained and hold an STCW Certificate for security duties. On completion of this training the seafarers should be issued with an STCW Certificate of Proficiency meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6 to 8, of the STCW Code 1978, as amended and at least be able to:

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

## **Transitional provisions of the vessel Togo flagged.**

- Seafarers who commenced their sea service on board Togo flagged vessels before 09 December 2013 and are not holders of certificates of proficiency for security awareness training or security training for seafarers with designated security duties issued in accordance with regulation V116 of the STCW 78 Convention as amended are exempted from the provisions of this regulation and can remain on board until the end of their contracts but not later than 09 December 2014.



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- Seafarers who have an approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel, for a period of at least six months in total during the period 01/01/2009-31/12/2011 should, until 31st of January 2014, apply to this, Administration for the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency for security awareness training or security training for seafarers with designated security duties in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the. STCW 78 Convention as amended.
- Every application made for the issue of a Certificate of Proficiency for security awareness training or security training for seafarers with designated security duties in accordance with regulation VI/6 and section A-VI/6 paragraphs 5 and 9 of the STCW 78 Convention as amended must be supported by the following:
  - 1- Completed application form.
  - 2- Two passport size photographs
  - 3- letter from the management company or companies, where the seaman is / was employed, attesting the seagoing service of the applicant and whether during this service he / she performed designated security duties on board their ships for a period of at least six months in total during the period from 01<sup>st</sup> of January 2009 until 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2011.
  - 4- Photocopy of valid Medical fitness certificate
  - 5- Relevant fees.

## Act now.

Owners and/or managers of ships to which the ISPS Code apply should assure that the seafarers on board have documented three levels of training:

- The security-related familiarization training course that should be received by all persons employed on engaged on a sea going ship. This training can be conducted by the Ship Security Officer. The owners and/or managers should ensure that the Ship Security Plan makes reference to the requirements of STCW Code Section A-VI/6 for this training.
- Security awareness training that shall be received by all seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board the ship. Shore based training should be conducted and an STCW Certificate of Proficiency should be issued meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraph 4, of the STCW Code. This training course should be completed once in the career of the seafarer.
- Security training to seafarers with designated security duties as per Ship Security Plan should be conducted and STCW Certificate of Proficiency meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6 to 8, of the STCW Code 1978, as amended must be issued.

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P.M.S Auditors must ensure that the above mentioned training courses have been conducted on board ships that the ISPS Code applies. Also, P.M.S auditors should review and assure that the seafarers hold the appropriate certificate of Proficiency and/or documented evidence kept on board for the training of all persons engaged on a ship. This verification should be conducted in the forthcoming ISPS/ISSC audits irrespective of scope.

**Kind Regards,**

## CONTACT US

