

SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN ELEMENT,
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
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Agenda item 7

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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE 1978 STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

List of high-level areas identified for comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code

Submitted by ICS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document details some non-exhaustive and indicative high-level areas identified for comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code. These areas might serve to assist the Sub-Committee with determining how to define the scope of work, a methodology and roadmap.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 6

Output: 6.17

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: STCW/CONF.2/32; MSC 104/15/5; MSC 105/20; HTW 6/12/3 and HTW 9/7

Introduction

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 105th session (20 to 29 April 2022), after consideration of the corresponding proposal:

- .1 agreed to include in the biennial agenda of the HTW Sub-Committee for 2022-2023 and the provisional agenda for HTW 9 an output on "Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code", with a target completion year of 2026;
- .2 recalled its earlier decision to prioritize the development and finalization of STCW training provisions on bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, as part of this output; and
- .3 instructed the Sub-Committee to start with a preliminary assessment of the scope of the work to be conducted, identifying specific areas to be reviewed, and to prepare a road map for approval by the Committee before initiating the development of draft amendments.

Discussion

2 ICS considers that, in order to successfully complete such a complex and important task as a comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, the starting point for the Sub-Committee must be to ensure agreement on the high-level aims and principles for the exercise. These are essential to the consideration of the preliminary assessment of the scope of work, as requested by the Committee as a first step.

3 For this reason, ICS submitted document HTW 9/7 to propose high-level aims and principles that could serve to establish the scope of the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, as well as a basis for the methodology and roadmap for the exercise.

4 ICS considers that the identification of specific areas for review, as also requested by the Committee, should be subsequent to determining the scope of work and thus treated as a second step by the Sub-Committee.

5 As a matter of definition and in accordance with resolution 15 as adopted in 2010 at the Conference of STCW Parties in Manila, a comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code should not be restricted to specific areas submitted to the Sub-Committee on the occasion of HTW 9, but involve scrutiny of all its topics and provisions during its coming sessions if to be conducted properly.

6 Nonetheless, ICS can accept that some indications of the types of specific areas that could be addressed during this exercise might serve to assist the Sub-Committee with determining how to define the scope of work, a methodology and roadmap. It is noted that other Members may already be indicating possible specific areas for review and it is suggested that these should be treated as indicative and not definitive of the scope of the exercise.

7 ICS has therefore identified a non-exhaustive and indicative list of high-level areas that would need to be addressed during the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, which are detailed in the annex to this document.

Proposal

8 ICS proposes that the non-exhaustive list of high-level areas detailed in the annex to this document be considered, at the appropriate time, for addressing during the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

9 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the proposal in paragraph 8 and the annex and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX

LIST OF HIGH-LEVEL AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

Without excluding any areas from the review process, this annex contains a non-exhaustive and indicative list of high-level areas that might serve to assist the Sub-Committee with determining how to define the scope of work, a methodology and roadmap:

- 1 Built-in flexibility in the STCW Convention and Code

Review provisions offering flexibility in the Convention and Code, such as article IX (Equivalents), to determine if they are sufficient to allow smooth and timely accommodation of future training needs to facilitate the use of new and emerging technologies and organizational innovations.
- 2 21st century and interpersonal skills

Review the Convention and Code for the need to address 21st century skills and interpersonal skills such as digital skills, communications, information management and the ability to adapt to a changing work environment.
- 3 Alternative certification under chapter VII

Review chapter VII of the Convention and Code to determine whether a revision is needed for more effective utilization of alternative certification as part of the flexibility needed to accommodate new and emerging technologies and organizational innovations.
- 4 Watchkeeping arrangements and principles to be observed (chapter VIII)

Review regulation VIII/2 of the Convention and sections A-VIII/2 and B-VIII/2 of the Code with a view to formulating these provisions in a goal-based manner to enable the accommodation of new and emerging technologies and organizational innovations.
- 5 Alignment of STCW with requirements placed on ships, seafarers, and shipowners by other IMO and relevant international instruments

Review the Convention and Code to ensure that both are fully aligned with requirements put on ships, seafarers, and shipowners by other international legal requirements.
- 6 Addressing obsolete competencies

Review the requirements of the Convention and Code against the mandatory requirements of ships' systems and equipment under other IMO instruments, in order to identify training provisions that are no longer appropriate and can thus be removed from the Convention and Code.

- 7 Addressing inconsistencies

Review the Convention and Code to address inconsistencies including having consistent terminology and taxonomy across all competency tables in the Code.
- 8 Addressing interpretations

Review the Convention and Code to incorporate the various interpretations provided by STCW.7 and MSC circulars.
- 9 Requirements for sea time or practical experience in relation to new and emerging technologies

Review the Convention and Code on the feasibility to comply with requirements for sea time or practical experience in connection with new and emerging technologies, considering that in the initial phase the training and certification of seafarers often goes ahead of the installation of new technologies on ships.
- 10 Digitalization of documentation

Review the Convention and Code to accommodate digitalization of seafarer documentation including training record books.
- 11 Prevention of bullying and harassment, including sexual assault and sexual harassment

Review the Convention and Code to incorporate prevention of bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment in accordance with document MSC 105/20, paragraph 18.13.2.
- 12 Maritime cybersecurity awareness

Review the Convention and Code to consider an approach to addressing the need for cybersecurity awareness for seafarers, especially as maritime operations become more reliant on the systems integrated through automation.
- 13 Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)

Review the Convention and Code to consider an approach to addressing developments in maritime autonomy.
- 14 Transitional provisions

Review the transitional provisions in the Convention and Code to allow for efficient implementation of future amendments.