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Shipping Guidance Notice – 061
SGN 034 & 049 are now cancelled

Subject: Revised ECDIS Training Requirements

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters, Officers, Local Representatives

References: STCW Convention 1978, as amended, Regulation I/14
IMO Guidance STCW 7 / Circ. 18
IMO MSC .1/Circ 1503 E 27.1
UK MCA MIN 503
ISM Code, Section 6.3 & 6.5
Port State Control Committee Instruction 47/2014/15

Background:

In ships where an ECDIS navigational system is fitted as the primary means of navigation, it is a requirement for masters and all navigational officers to have completed both generic and ship specific ECDIS training.

It is the responsibility of the ship's ISM managers to ensure that seafarers are competent to carry out the duties they are expected to perform. The previous prescriptive requirement of type specific equipment training to be only provided by the ECDIS manufacturer, manufacturer's approved agent or a trainer who has attended such a program has been removed.

ECDIS Generic Training:

Masters and navigating watch-keeping officers are required to have successfully completed:

1. A generic ECDIS course that meets the learning outcomes of IMO Model Course 1.27 and has been approved by an EU Maritime Administration or recognized authority (RO);
OR
2. A generic ECDIS course approved by the Maritime Authority which issued their STCW Certificate of Competency;
OR
3. A UK MCA approved Navigation, Radar & ARPA Simulator (NARAS) / Navigation Aids & Equipment & Simulator Training (NAEST) Operational Level course on or after 1st January 2005;
OR
4. MCA approved NARAS / NAEST Management Level course on or after 1st January 2005.

ECDIS Type Specific Training:

ECDIS ship specific equipment training for navigating officers must relate to the make and model of the equipment fitted on board the ship in which they are currently serving. The decision on how to ensure that ship/type specific training is delivered in accordance with the ISM Code and the STCW Convention is now deemed to be the responsibility of the ISM managers.

The ISM managers shall ensure that the ship specific training is carried out and clearly documented

ECDIS ship specific familiarisation training as required by STCW convention regulation I/14 and provisions of sections 6.3 and 6.5 of ISM code should be a structured and formalized training program on board for officers who have successfully completed the formal five day generic ECDIS training based on IMO model course 1.27.

It is recommended that such type specific training include computer based training modules approved by the manufacturer of the equipment installed on the ship.

Given the critical nature of this training, the ship's Safety Management System shall include specific procedures and requirements to ensure that all navigating bridge watch keeping officers have suitable training, familiarisation and documentation related to the specific ECDIS installation on board before they take charge of a watch.

Richard Montado
Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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