



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Guidance Notice – 073

STCW Requirements for personnel on ships subject to the Code of Safety for ships using gases or other low flashpoint fuels (IGF Code)

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

1. Background

IMO Resolutions MSC.396(95) and MSC.396(95), adopted the amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), and STCW Code, to include new mandatory minimum requirements for the training and qualifications of Masters, Officers, Ratings and other personnel on ships subject to the Code of Safety for ships using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels (IGF Code).

These amendments came into effect on 01 January 2017, in line with the SOLAS amendments related to the IGF Code. The amendments require all seafarers serving onboard ships subject to the IGF Code to have a valid Certificate of Proficiency that relates to the IGF training appropriate to their assigned shipboard duties.

IGF training should satisfy the requirements specified in STCW Code A-V/3.

2. IGF Basic Training

Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel on board ships subject to the IGF Code, are required to be in possession of a certificate in basic training (for service on ships which are subject to the requirements of the IGF Code).

Seafarers who are required to hold a certificate in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code are required to have either:

- A basic IGF Training Certificate of Proficiency

3. IGF Advanced Training

Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on ships subject to the IGF Code should hold a certificate in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

Emergency response duties as referred to within basic training above, are not included in the operations associated with the Advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code.

As per the definition of Section B-V/3, "a person with immediate responsibility" means a person being in a decision- making capacity with respect to handling of fuel addressed by the IGF Code or other fuel- related operations.

4. Recognition of qualifications related to Liquefied Gas Tankers

Persons who have qualifications/certificates for service on liquefied gas tankers (STCW Reg. V/1-2) are considered as having met the requirements for service on ships subject to the IGF Code, as appropriate (Refer to Reg. V/3 para 6 and 9).

5. Endorsement of recognition and revalidation of Certificates of Proficiency

Certificates of proficiency issued under STCW V/3 do not require recognition by the issue of an endorsement for service on a Gibraltar registered vessel.

Endorsement of recognition is not required for Certificate of Proficiency issued under STCW Chapter V/3. Seafarers holding the mentioned Certificates of Proficiency (basic and advanced) should, at intervals not exceeding five (5) years, undertake appropriate refresher training or be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five (5) years.

6. Responsibilities of Companies

As well as placing responsibilities on masters and other seafarers, the STCW Convention also places responsibilities on the owners / managers of ships subject to STCW. The obligations are outlined in STCW I/14 and are reflected in the applicable Gibraltar Merchant Shipping legislation.

In summary, these obligations relate to –

- a) Ensuring seafarers assigned to any of its ships are appropriately qualified in accordance with the STCW Convention;
- b) ensuring its ships are manned in accordance with the applicable minimum safe manning document;
- c) seafarers receiving the appropriate refresher and updating training;
- d) full, readily available, records of seafarers being maintained (see STCW I/14.4 for details of the information to be recorded);
- e) ensuring seafarers are properly familiarised when assigned to its ships;
- f) ensuring effective coordination of the ship's complement in emergency situations and when performing safety, security and pollution prevention duties; and
- g) ensuring that there is an effective means of oral communication on board.

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