



Marine Notice 20/2011

Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and STCW Code related to responsibilities of companies and fitness for duty

The purpose of this Marine Notice is to advise shipowners, operators, seafarers and other sectors of the maritime industry of the recent changes to the STCW Convention and the STCW Code concerning (a) responsibility of companies and (b) fitness for duty.

Major revisions to the STCW Convention and Code were adopted at a Diplomatic Conference in Manila in June 2010. These amendments will enter into force internationally on 1 January 2012 and they are included in the 2011 Edition of the STCW Convention and Code.

Marine Orders Part 28, *Operational Standards and Procedures*, is being updated to implement the changes to the STCW Convention and Code and will be re-issued shortly. In the meantime, shipowners, operators, seafarers and other relevant sectors of the maritime industry are urged to familiarise themselves with these new requirements and apply them with effect from 1 January 2012.

Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code that relate to Marine Orders Part 28 include:

- a) Regulation 1/14 of the STCW Convention which deals with responsibilities of companies has been revised to include a new requirement that all companies must ensure that:
- seafarers have received refresher and updating training as required by the Convention; and
 - at all times on board ships operated by them, there shall be effective oral communication in accordance with chapter V, regulation 14, paragraphs 3 and 4 of SOLAS 74, as amended

- b) Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code deals with fitness for duty which applies to watchkeepers and has now been broadened to include personnel whose duties involve designated safety, prevention of pollution and security. The amendments are in relation to:

- rest periods and exceptions to rest periods;
- record keeping for hours of work and rest; and
- watchkeeping schedules.

The amended STCW Convention and Code (2011 Edition) (IMO publication sales number IC938E) can be purchased directly from the IMO through their website www.imo.org. The website also provides a list of Australian distributors of IMO publications.

The International Shipping Federation (ISF) has produced a useful publication 'Guidelines on the IMO STCW Convention including the '2010 Manila Amendments', 3rd edition (2011) which highlights the various changes to the Convention, (www.marisec.org).

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21 December 2011

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File No: 2011/2699