

Isle of Man Ship Registry Technical Advisory Notice



Manila Amendments – Refresher Training

Ref. 001-16
Issued 18/01/16

The Isle of Man Merchant Shipping (Manning and STCW) Regulations apply to all seafarers working on an Isle of Man registered commercial ship. These Regulations implement the 1978 STCW Convention (as amended) into Manx Law.

A comprehensive set of amendments to the 1978 STCW convention were agreed in Manila in 2010. These are commonly known as 'the Manila Amendments'. The Manila Amendments primarily relate to the following:

- Training and certification;
- Hours of work and rest;
- Prevention of drug and alcohol abuse; and
- Medical fitness standards for seafarers.

The Manila Amendments were effective from 1 January 2012, but written into the amendments was a transitional period of 5 years to allow seafarers and ship owners/operators sufficient time to adapt to the new regulations. The transitional period expires on 1 January 2017 and from this date the full provisions of the Manila Amendments will come into force.

In particular, the Ship Registry wish to draw attention to clauses A-VI/1-3, A-VI/2-5, A-VI/2-11 and A-VI/3-5 of the Manila Amendments which require continuous assessment of a seafarer's competence to undertake the duties and responsibilities regarding emergency, occupational safety and survival functions. The following certificates are subject to the new continuous assessment regulations:

1. Personal survival techniques (STCW A-VI.2.1.1);
2. Fire prevention & fire-fighting (STCW A-VI.2.1.2);
3. Survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats (STCW A-VI/2.1);
4. Fast rescue boats (STCW A-VI/2.7); and
5. Advanced fire-fighting (STCW A-VI/3).

From 1st January 2017, all seafarers holding the above certificates will be required to hold evidence that they have undertaken relevant training every 5 years. The Ship Registry considers this to mean that either the full course has been completed within the previous 5 years or if that was completed more than 5 years ago, the relevant refresher training must have been completed within the last 5 years.



Certain certificate issuing authorities have specified that refresher training can be done onboard the ship allowing for a shortened shore-side course. The Ship Registry recommends that seafarers contact their issuing authority for further information on this matter. More information regarding the Manila Amendments can be found in MSN 50. Section 10 refers to the requirements in respect of refresher training.

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

