



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**STCW Convention regulation VI/6  
Mandatory minimum requirements for security-related training and  
instruction for all seafarers**

The objective of this MSN is to detail the STCW Regulation VI/6 requirements and explain how shipowners can ensure that seafarers on their vessels comply with the new requirements.

Documents referred to in this notice:

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended; (STCW Convention);

International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code (ISPS Code);

STCW.7/Circ.21;

STCW.7/Circ.22.

Most regulations and notices are available on the Isle of Man Government website: [www.iomshipregistry.com](http://www.iomshipregistry.com) or by contacting [marine.survey@gov.im](mailto:marine.survey@gov.im)

**This MSN has been updated to take into account the following –**

- The Ship Registry accepts the advice stated in STCW.7/Circ.21 and will extend the deadline for seafarers to obtain the certification stated in **Section 2 & 3** of this MSN until **01/07/2015**. Please note the Ship Registry cannot guarantee that local port State control will also extend this deadline so we recommend that seafarers complete this training as soon as possible.
- STCW.7/Circ.22 issues clarification that there are 3 levels of security training with the training for the Ship Security Officer (SSO) being the highest level, followed by training for seafarers with designated security duties and security awareness training. The higher levels of training include the competencies of the lower levels of training so a seafarer with an STCW SSO certificate does not require any further training.

**STCW Convention regulation VI/6**

STCW Convention regulation VI/6 came into effect on **01/01/2014** and applies to seafarers on Isle of Man registered vessels to which the ISPS Code applies. This MSN details the requirements and explains how shipowners can ensure seafarers on their vessels comply.

**1. Security-related familiarisation training**

This training applies from **01/01/2014** to all persons employed or engaged in any capacity on ships, prior to being assigned shipboard duties; it does not apply to passengers.

The instruction must be delivered by the Ship Security Officer, or an equally qualified person and provide guidance for the seafarer to at least be able to –

- a. report a security incident;
- b. know the procedures to follow when they recognize a security threat; and
- c. take part in security-related emergency and contingency procedures.

These procedures shall be included in the Ship Security Plan and can also be included as part of the shipboard familiarisation checklist.

## 2. **Standard of competence for security awareness training (for seafarers without designated security duties)**

Security awareness training is required from **01/07/2015** and only needs to be given once in the seafarer's career as there is no requirement for refreshment or revalidation.

This training applies to seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on the business of a ship as part of the ship's complement without designated security duties. The IOM Ship Registry considers this to apply as a minimum to all members of the deck, engine-room and catering departments on the vessel. These seafarers shall receive the training as set out in Annex 1 before being assigned to any shipboard duties.

On completion of this training the seafarer shall be able to –

- a. contribute to the enhancement of maritime security through heightened awareness;
- b. recognise security threats; and
- c. understand the need for and methods of maintaining security awareness and vigilance.

There is a transitional provision for this requirement for existing seafarers (see section 4).

## 3. **Standard of competence for seafarers with designated security duties**

Security training for seafarers with designated security duties is required from **01/07/2015** and only needs to be given once in the seafarer's career as there is no requirement for refreshment or revalidation.

This applies to every seafarer who is designated to perform security duties as stated in the Ship Security Plan and also includes anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery related activities. On completion of the training the seafarer shall have sufficient knowledge to perform on board designated security duties, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery related activities.

These seafarers shall be required to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code (stated in Annex II) which includes -

- a. maintaining the conditions set out in a Ship Security Plan;
- b. recognising security risks and threats;
- c. undertaking regular security inspections; and
- d. properly using security equipment and systems.

There is a transitional provision for this requirement for existing seafarers (see Section 4 below).

#### **4. Transitional provisions**

There are transitional provisions for:

- 1. security awareness training - for seafarers who commenced sea service before **01/01/2012**.
- 2. standard of competence for seafarers with designated security duties – for seafarers with designated security duties who commenced sea service before **01/01/2012**.

In both cases these seafarers are not required to undertake further training provided they can demonstrate they meet the requirements by –

- a. having approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years. This can be verified by an IOM surveyor during ISM/ISPS inspections by checking the seafarer's discharge book or the record of employment issued by their employer. Alternatively the seafarer's employer can issue their own certificates to seafarers confirming the seafarer has accrued the necessary sea time to fulfil this requirement; or
- b. having performed security functions after **01/07/04** considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required by a.; or
- c. passing an approved test (see section 6 Training Centres); or
- d. successfully completing approved training (see section 6 Training Centres).

#### **5. Recognising certificates issued by other administrations**

The IOM Ship Registry will recognise Certificates of Proficiency issued for security awareness training or Certificates of Proficiency for seafarers with designated security duties that have been issued by another Administration in accordance with the STCW Convention.

#### **6. Training Centres**

This section explains the requirements for training centres for training seafarers in security awareness training and/or training in designated security duties.

- 1. A training centre can be a shore based establishment or a shipping company.
- 2. The following type of training is allowed: classroom instruction, in-service training, distance learning, computer-based training or a combination of these methods.

3. The IOM Ship Registry will verify training centres located on the Isle of Man to ensure they meet the requirements for STCW Regulation VI/6.
4. The Isle of Man Ship Registry will accept training centres not located on the Isle of Man if another Administration or a Recognised Organisation has confirmed the training fulfils the STCW regulation VI/6 requirements.
5. On successfully completing the training the training centre shall issue a Certificate of Proficiency to the seafarer.

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Isle of Man Ship Registry

*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.*

## Annex 1

**Table A-VI/6-1 Specification of minimum standard of competence in security awareness**

Seafarers shall be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1:

- by demonstration of competence, in accordance with the methods and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in columns 3 and 4; and
- by examination or continuous assessment as part of an approved training programme in the subjects listed in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Contribute to the enhancement of maritime security through heightened awareness.	Basic working knowledge of maritime security terms and definitions, including elements that may relate to piracy and armed robbery. Basic knowledge of international maritime security policy and responsibilities of Governments, companies and persons. Basic knowledge of maritime security levels and their impact on security measures and procedures aboard ship and in port facilities. Basic knowledge of security reporting procedures. Basic knowledge of security-related contingency plans.	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course.	Requirements relating to enhanced maritime security are correctly identified.
Recognition of security threats.	Basic knowledge of techniques used to circumvent security measures Basic knowledge enabling recognition of potential security threats, including elements that may relate to piracy and armed robbery. Basic knowledge enabling recognition of weapons, dangerous substances and devices and awareness of the damage they can cause. Basic knowledge in handling security-related information and security-related communications.	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course.	Maritime security threats are correctly identified.
Understanding of the need for and methods of maintaining security awareness and vigilance.	Basic knowledge of training, drill and exercise requirements under relevant conventions, codes and IMO circulars, including those relevant for anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery.	Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course.	Requirements relating to enhanced maritime security are correctly identified.

## Annex 2

**Table A-VI/6-2 Specification of minimum standard of competence for seafarers with designated security duties**

Every candidate for certification shall be required to provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence through:

- demonstration of competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in Column 1, in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in Columns 3 and 4; and
- examination or continuous assessment as part of an approved training programme covering the material set out in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
<p>Maintain the conditions set out in a Ship Security Plan.</p>	<p>Working knowledge of maritime security terms and definitions, including elements that may relate to piracy and armed robbery.</p> <p>Knowledge of international maritime security policy and responsibilities of Governments, companies and persons, including working knowledge of elements that may related to piracy and armed robbery.</p> <p>Knowledge of maritime security levels and their impact on security measures and procedures aboard ship and in the port facilities.</p> <p>Knowledge of security reporting procedures.</p> <p>Knowledge of procedures and requirements for drills and exercises under relevant conventions, codes and IMO circulars, including working knowledge of those that may related to piracy and armed robber.</p> <p>Knowledge of the procedures for conduction inspections and surveys and for the control and monitoring of security activities specified in a Ship Security Plan.</p> <p>Knowledge of security-related contingency plans and the procedures for responding to security threats or breaches of security, including provisions for maintaining critical operations of the ship/port interface, and including also working knowledge of those that may be related to piracy and armed robbery.</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course.</p>	<p>Procedures and actions are in accordance with the principles established by the ISPS Code and SOLAS 1974, as amended.</p> <p>Legislative requirements relating to security are correctly identified.</p> <p>Communications within the area of responsibility are clear and understood.</p>

<p>Recognition of security risks and threats</p>	<p>Knowledge of security documentation including the Declaration of Security.  Knowledge of techniques used to circumvent security measures, including those used by pirates and armed robbers.  Knowledge enabling recognition of potential security threats.  Knowledge enabling recognition of weapons, dangerous substances, and devices and awareness of the damage they can cause.  Knowledge of crowd management and control techniques, where appropriate.  Knowledge in handling security-related information and security-related communications.  Knowledge of the methods for physical searches and non-intrusive inspections.</p>		
<p>Undertake regular security inspections of the ship.</p>	<p>Knowledge of the techniques for monitoring restricted areas.  Knowledge of controlling access to the ship and to restricted areas on board ship.  Knowledge of methods for effective monitoring of deck areas and areas surrounding the ship.  Knowledge of inspection methods relating to the cargo and ship's stores.  Knowledge of methods for controlling the embarkation, disembarkation and access while on board of persons and their effects.</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course.</p>	<p>Procedures and actions are in accordance with the principles established by the ISPS Code and SOLAS, 1974, as amended.</p>
<p>Proper usage of security equipment and systems, if any.</p>	<p>General knowledge of various types of security equipment and systems, including those that could be used in case of attacks by pirates and armed robbers, including their limitations.  Knowledge of the need for testing, calibrating, and maintaining security systems and equipment, particularly whilst at sea.</p>	<p>Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course.</p>	<p>Equipment and systems operations are carried out in accordance with established equipment operating instructions and taking into account the limitations of the equipment and systems. Procedures and actions are in accordance with the principles established by the ISPS Code and SOLAS 1974, as amended.</p>