

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 15-17

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: REQUIREMENTS TO MEET PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) MANILA AMENDMENTS

Date: 26 May 2017

References: STCW 1978 AS AMENDED BY THE MANILA AMENDMENTS (The Manila Amendments)

RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements ([MI-118](#))

The provisions of the Manila Amendments came into full effect on 01 January 2017. All seafarer documentation issued by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) is required to comply with the provisions of the Manila Amendments. Seafarers will need to submit documentary evidence of compliance with these provisions in any application that is submitted to the Administrator for the issuance of seafarer documentation. The following outlines each new requirement, and what will be accepted as documentary evidence to satisfy the Manila Amendment provisions.

Answers to questions regarding the implementation of the Manila Amendments and the Administrator’s procedures can be found on our website at www.register-iri.com. Please refer to the [FAQ section](#) in the SEAFARER DOCUMENTATION drop down list.

1.0 DECK OFFICERS

- 1.1 All deck officers are required to provide evidence they have received approved training in:
- .1 Bridge Resource Management (BRM);
 - .2 Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training; and
 - .3 Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS).

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

1.2 BRM, and Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial Training

BRM and Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training are required in the tables of Section A of the STCW Code. Leadership and Teamwork training is required for operational level officers. Leadership and Managerial training is required for management level officers. Specifics are found in tables A-II/1, A-II/2, and A-II/3. Evidence that an officer is qualified in BRM, and Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training, can be provided by any of the following:

- .1 Submission of a nationally issued Certificate of Competency (CoC) from the administration of a nation with which the Administrator has an undertaking that expires after 31 December 2016; or
- .2 Submission of a training certificate from an accepted facility whose program has been approved as compliant with the above tables by the administration of a nation that is on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) white list. The certificate must bear the proper STCW references and the administration approval; or
- .3 Submission of a BRM certificate from a course that includes the Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training, as applicable, will serve as evidence for both qualifications.

1.3 ECDIS

Generic ECDIS training is required in the tables of Section A of the STCW Code. Specifics are found in tables A-II/1, A-II/2, and A-II/3. Evidence that an officer is qualified in ECDIS can be provided by any of the following:

- .1 Submission of a nationally issue CoC that expires after 31 December 2016 and bears no limitations from the administration of a nation with which the Administrator has an undertaking; or
- .2 Submission of a training certificate from an accepted facility whose program has been approved as compliant with the above tables by the administration of a nation that is on the IMO white list. The certificate must bear the proper STCW references and the administration approval.

ECDIS training is required at two (2) levels.

- .1 Generic ECDIS training is required to be done in a shoreside training facility whose course has been approved by the administration of a nation on the IMO white list; and
- .2 Type specific familiarization with the specific equipment on board a ship can be done either on board or ashore but must familiarize the deck officer with the specific unit he/she will be using on board. This training should be done in accordance with the Safety Management System procedures of the vessel.

Deck officers who cannot provide sufficient documentary evidence of having completed the required Generic ECDIS training will receive a limitation to vessels that are not fitted with ECDIS on their CoC or endorsements. The Administrator does not require evidence of type specific familiarization to be submitted to receive seafarer documentation.

2.0 ENGINEERING OFFICERS (including Electro-Technical Officers)

2.1 All engineering officers are required to provide evidence they have received approved training in:

- .1 Engine Room Resource Management (ERM);
- .2 Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training; and
- .3 High Voltage (HV) systems

2.2 ERM and Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial Training.

ERM, and Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training, are required in the tables of Section A of the STCW Code. Leadership and Teamwork training is required for operational level officers. Leadership and Managerial training is required for management level officers. Specifics are found in tables A-III/1, A-III/2, A-III/3, and A-III/6. Evidence that an officer is qualified in ERM and Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial can be provided by any of the following:

- .1 Submission of a nationally issued CoC from the administration of a nation with which the Administrator has an undertaking that expires after 31 December 2016; or
- .2 Submission of a training certificate from an accepted facility whose program has been approved as compliant with the above tables by the administration of a nation that is on the IMO white list. The certificate must bear the proper STCW references and the administration approval; or
- .3 Submission of an ERM certificate from a course that includes the Leadership and Teamwork/Managerial training. as applicable, will serve as evidence for both qualifications.

2.3 HV Systems

Training in HV systems is required in the tables of Section A of the STCW Code. Specifics are found in tables A-III/1, A-III/2, A-III/3, and A-III/6. Evidence that an officer is qualified in HV systems can be provided by any of the following:

- .1 Submission of a nationally issued CoC that expires after 31 December 2016 and bears no limitations from the administration of a nation with which the Administrator has an undertaking; or

- .2 Submission of a training certificate from an accepted facility whose program has been approved as compliant with the above tables by the administration of a nation that is on the IMO white list. The certificate must bear the proper STCW references and the administration approval.

Engineering officers who cannot provide sufficient documentary evidence they have completed the required HV training will receive a limitation to vessels that are not fitted with HV systems on their CoC or endorsements.

3.0 NEW CAPACITIES

3.1 Electro-Technical Officer, STCW Regulation III/6

RMI endorsements for this officer capacity are optional. However, if a seafarer is serving on board an RMI vessel in the capacity of Electro-Technical Officer (ETO), he/she must be able to provide documentary evidence to authorities that he/she is qualified. To receive an RMI ETO endorsement, a nationally issued CoC must be submitted that contains the STCW III/6 reference. ETO endorsements will be issued at the operational level.

NOTE: Certificates with only the III/6 or III/7 STCW reference do not qualify a seafarer to be an engineering watchstanding officer or rating, respectively.

3.2 Able Seafarer – Deck, STCW Regulation II/5

After 01 January 2017, Able Seafarers are required to be qualified in this capacity. The possession of a nationally issued STCW II/4 rating forming part of a navigation watch certificate and an STCW II/5 Able Seafarer Deck (ASD) certificate are mandatory to receive the RMI ASD certificate. The possession of a nationally issued ASD certificate will offer evidence the seafarer also possesses Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boat training, as required for this capacity.

3.3 Able Seafarer – Engine, STCW Regulation III/5

The possession of a nationally issued STCW III/4 rating forming part of an engineering watch certificate and an STCW III/5 Able Seafarer Engine (ASE) certificate are mandatory to receive the RMI ASE certificate.

NOTE: The Administrator does not currently require this capacity for watch standing engineering ratings. Minimum Safe Manning Certificates require these personnel to possess either the III/4 or III/5 certificate.

3.4 Electro-Technical Rating, STCW Regulation III/7

RMI certificates for this rating are optional. However, seafarers serving on board in this capacity must be able to provide documentary evidence to authorities that they are qualified. To receive an RMI certificate as Electro-Technical Rating (ETR), the seafarer must submit a nationally issued certificate that bears the STCW III/7 reference.

4.0 TRAINING

4.1 General training

All training certificates are required to bear the applicable STCW references. Additionally, they must bear the approval that the course from which the certificate is generated is in compliance with the provisions of the Manila Amendments. This approval must be from the administration of a party that is acceptable to the Administrator and that is on the IMO white list.

After 01 January 2017, most certificates submitted to the Administrator in application submissions will be required to be dated within the five (5) years prior to the date on the application. This includes both original and refresher training certificates.

Courses that will require refresher training are:

- .1 Personal survival techniques and fire fighting for Basic Safety Training;
- .2 Proficiency in survival craft and rescue boats;
- .3 Advanced fire-fighting;
- .4 Medical Care (see below);
- .5 Fast rescue boat;
- .6 All advanced or specialized tanker training; and
- .7 Operations in polar waters.

Exceptions to this requirement as noted in Table B-1/2 of the STCW Code and which do not need refresher training are:

- .1 rating certificates;
- .2 support level tanker certificates; and
- .3 ship security officer, security awareness, and seafarers with designated security duties certificates.

RMI Maritime Regulations (MI-108) §7.42.4 requires that persons that require medical first aid training and who are in charge of the medical care of persons on board RMI vessels obtain refresher training every five (5) years. Therefore, evidence of medical care training or refresher training within the previous five (5) years of the date of the application for a certificate shall be required. Evidence for medical first aid training can be provided by the submission of a valid officer's CoC that has an expiration date after 01 January 2017. Applicants for medical first aid that do not possess such a CoC will be required to submit a training certificate or refresher training dated within the last five (5) years.

4.2 Refresher training

Refresher training in some competencies is required by the Manila Amendments. The Administrator will follow Table B-1/2 found in Part B of the STCW Code. Some refresher training can be done on board. This would include training that does not require the seafarer to demonstrate proficiency; for example, Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities could

be a lecture or Computer Based Training (CBT) module. Other training, such as Personal Survival Techniques and Fire Fighting, require a demonstration of proficiency and must be done shore-side. The acceptability of all refresher training is subject to approval by the Administrator

4.3 Security training

There are two (2) new training competencies required by the Manila Amendments as follows:

- .1 Security Awareness training is required by STCW Regulation VI/6. All vessel personnel must be trained in security awareness. This can be through an approved shoreside or CBT training course.

The RMI certificate for this competency is optional. However, all personnel must be able to provide documentary evidence to authorities that they are qualified. To receive the RMI certificate, a training certificate must be submitted. An officer's CoC that bears an expiration date after 01 January 2017 will also provide evidence the seafarer is qualified. A course certificate for Ship Security Officer or Seafarers with Designated Security Duties will also provide such evidence.

- .2 Seafarers with Designated Security Duties are required by STCW Regulation VI/6. Vessel personnel who are designated in the ship security plan as having security duties must be qualified in this competency. This must be through an approved shoreside or CBT training course. Qualifications for security awareness can also be met by successfully completing a course for ship security officer.

The RMI certificate for this competency is optional. However, all personnel must be able to provide documentary evidence to authorities that they are qualified. To receive the RMI certificate, the seafarer has to submit a valid training certificate.

4.4 Tanker training

- .1 Oil and Chemical Tanker Basic Training; STCW Regulation V/1-1.1-2

Officers and ratings assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on oil or chemical tankers must hold a certificate for basic training in oil and chemical tanker cargo operations. Note that liquefied gas is no longer included in this training. Also note that shoreside firefighting (required by STCW '95) is now included in this training.

Seafarers who work on oil and/or chemical tankers must be certificated by the Administrator at the appropriate function level (refer to *RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements* ([MI-118](#)) for requirements).

RMI certificates are issued only for one (1) type of tanker and are not combined. To receive an RMI certificate for either oil or chemical tankers at the support level, the seafarer must submit evidence that he/she has successfully completed the above course.

.2 Liquefied Gas Tanker Basic Training; STCW Regulation V/1-2.1-2

Officers and ratings assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on liquefied gas tankers must hold a certificate for basic training in liquefied gas tanker cargo operations. Note that shoreside fire-fighting (required by STCW '95) is now included in this training.

Seafarers who work on liquefied gas tankers must be certificated by the Administrator at the appropriate function level (refer to *RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements* ([MI-118](#)) for requirements).

RMI certificates are issued only for one type of tanker and are not combined. To receive an RMI certificate for liquefied gas tankers at the support level, the seafarer must submit evidence he/she has successfully completed the above course.

.3 Advanced Oil Tanker Training; STCW Regulation V/1-1.3-4

Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers, and any person with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning, or other cargo-related operations on oil tankers must hold a certificate in advanced training for oil tanker cargo operations that has been issued by the Administrator (STCW Regulation V/1-1.7) at the appropriate function level (refer to *RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements* ([MI-118](#)) for requirements).

To receive an RMI certificate for a management or operational level certificate, the officer must submit evidence that he/she has successfully completed the above course. Management level certificates also will require the officer to provide documentary evidence that he/she has at least three (3) months experience on an oil tanker.

.4 Advanced Chemical Tanker Training; STCW Regulation V/1-1.5-6

Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers, and any person with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on chemical tankers must hold a certificate in advanced training for chemical tanker cargo operations that has been issued by the Administrator (STCW Regulation V/1-1.7) at the appropriate function level (refer to *RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements* ([MI-118](#)) for requirements).

To receive an RMI certificate for a management or operational level certificate, the officer must submit evidence that he/she has successfully completed the above course. Management level certificates also will require the officer to provide documentary evidence that he/she has at least three (3) months experience on a chemical tanker.

.5 Advanced Liquefied Gas Tanker training; STCW Regulation V/1-2.3-4

Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers, and any person with immediate responsibility for loading, discharging, care in transit, handling of cargo, tank cleaning or other cargo-related operations on liquefied gas tankers must hold a certificate in advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations that has been issued by the Administrator (STCW Regulation V/1-2.5) at the appropriate function level (refer to *RMI Seafarer Certification Requirements (MI-118)* for requirements).

To receive an RMI certificate for a management or operational level certificate, the officer must submit evidence that he/she has successfully completed the above course. Management level certificates also will require the officer to provide documentary evidence that he/she has at least three (3) months experience on a liquefied gas tanker.