ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° STCW 007

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SEAFARERS SAILING ON SHIPS SUBJECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR SHIPS USING GASES OR OTHER LOW-FLASHPOINT FUELS (IGF) CODE

TO: **SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGING COMPANIES, MASTERS, FLAG STATE SURVEYORS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

APPLICABLE TO: MASTERS, OFFICERS, RATINGS AND OTHER PERSONNEL ON SHIPS SUBJECT TO THE IGF CODE

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: **1st January 2017**

17th January 2017

1. General

The IMO Resolutions MSC.396(95) and MSC.396(95), annexed to this Circular, have adopted related 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 IGF Code. These amendments are effective as from **1st January 2017**, in line with the SOLAS amendments related to the IGF Code.

As from 1st January 2017 St. Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration requires all applicable 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. 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 should hold a certificate in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code. Safety duties in relation to fuel handling should be clearly defined in the ISM Company's Safety Management System (SMS).

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

- A basic IGF Training Certificate of Proficiency issued by the STCW party **OR**
- A Certificate of basic training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations in accordance with STCW A-V/1-2 paragraph 1.

3. 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.

Seafarers who hold a Certificate of Proficiency for advanced training for liquefied gas tanker cargo operations (STCW Regulation V/1-2.4) are considered as satisfying the requirements for IGF advanced training.

The term "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. Apart of Master and engineer officers, the Safety Management System should clearly identify all personnel with immediate responsibility (if any) for the care and use of fuels and fuel systems on ships subject to the IGF Code

4. St. Vincent and The Grenadines' endorsement of recognition and revalidation of Certificates of Proficiency

St. Vincent and The Grenadines' 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.

Annex:

IMO RESOLUTION MSC.396 (95)

ANNEX 7

RESOLUTION MSC.397(95)
(adopted on 11 June 2015)

AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING FURTHER article XII and regulation I/1.2.3 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 ("the Convention"), concerning the procedures for amending part A of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its ninety-fifth session, amendments to part A of the STCW Code, proposed and circulated in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(i) of the Convention,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the Convention, amendments to the STCW Code, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(vii)(2) of the Convention, that the said amendments to the STCW Code shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2016, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified to the Secretary-General of the Organization their objections to the amendments;

3 INVITES Parties to note that, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, the annexed amendments to the STCW Code shall enter into force on 1 January 2017 upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article XII(1)(a)(v) of the Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Parties to the Convention; and

5 REQUESTS ALSO the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization, which are not Parties to the Convention.

ANNEX

AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE

CHAPTER V – SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL ON CERTAIN TYPES OF SHIP

1 The following new section A-V/3 is added after existing section A-V/2:

"**Section A-V/3**

Mandatory minimum requirements for the training and qualification of masters, officers, ratings and other personnel on ships subject to the IGF Code

Basic training for ships subject to the IGF Code

1 Every candidate for a certificate in basic training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code shall:

.1.1 have successfully completed the approved basic training required by regulation V/3, paragraph 5, in accordance with their capacity, duties and responsibilities as set out in table A-V/3-1; and

.1.2 be required to provide evidence that the required standard of competence has been achieved in accordance with the methods and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in columns 3 and 4 of table A-V/3-1; or

.2 have received appropriate training and certification according to the requirements for service on liquefied gas tankers as set out in regulation V/3, paragraph 6.

Advanced training for ships subject to the IGF Code

2 Every candidate for a certificate in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code shall:

.1.1 have successfully completed the approved advanced training required by regulation V/3, paragraph 8 in accordance with their capacity, duties and responsibilities as set out in table A-V/3-2; and

.1.2 provide evidence that the required standard of competence has been achieved in accordance with the methods and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in columns 3 and 4 of table A-V/3-2; or

.2 have received appropriate training and certification according to the requirements for service on liquefied gas tankers as set out in regulation V/3, paragraph 9.

Exemptions

3 The Administration may, in respect of ships of less than 500 gross tonnage, except for passenger ships, if it considers that a ship's size and the length or character of its voyage are such as to render the application of the full requirements of this section unreasonable or impracticable, exempt the seafarers on such a ship or class of ships from some of the requirements, bearing in mind the safety of people on board, the ship and property and the protection of the marine environment.

Table A-V/3-1

Specification of minimum standard of competence in basic training for ships subject to the IGF Code

Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**	**Column 4**
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Contribute to the safe operation of a ship subject to the IGF Code	Design and operational characteristics of ships subject to the IGF Code Basic knowledge of ships subject to the IGF Code, their fuel systems and fuel storage systems: .1 fuels addressed by the IGF Code .2 types of fuel systems subject to the IGF Code .3 atmospheric, cryogenic or compressed storage of fuels on board ships subject to the IGF Code .4 general arrangement of fuel storage systems on board ships subject to the IGF Code .5 hazard zones and areas .6 typical fire safety plan .7 monitoring, control and safety systems aboard ships subject to the IGF Code Basic knowledge of fuels and fuel storage systems' operations on board ships subject to the IGF Code: .1 piping systems and valves .2 atmospheric, compressed or cryogenic storage	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Communications within the area of responsibility are clear and effective Operations related to ships subject to the IGF Code are carried out in accordance with accepted principles and procedures to ensure safety of operations

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	.3 relief systems and protection screens .4 basic bunkering operations and bunkering systems .5 protection against cryogenic accidents .6 fuel leak monitoring and detection Basic knowledge of the physical properties of fuels on board ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .1 properties and characteristics .2 pressure and temperature, including vapour pressure/ temperature relationship Knowledge and understanding of safety requirements and safety management on board ships subject to the IGF Code		
Take precautions to prevent hazards on a ship subject to the IGF Code	Basic knowledge of the hazards associated with operations on ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .1 health hazards .2 environmental hazards .3 reactivity hazards .4 corrosion hazards .5 ignition, explosion and flammability hazards .6 sources of ignition	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Correctly identifies, on a Safety Data Sheet (SDS), relevant hazards to the ship and to personnel, and takes the appropriate actions in accordance with established procedures Identification and actions on becoming aware of a hazardous

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	.7 electrostatic hazards .8 toxicity hazards .9 vapour leaks and clouds .10 extremely low temperatures .11 pressure hazards .12 fuel batch differences Basic knowledge of hazard controls: .1 emptying, inerting, drying and monitoring techniques .2 anti-static measures .3 ventilation .4 segregation .5 inhibition .6 measures to prevent ignition, fire and explosion .7 atmospheric control .8 gas testing .9 protection against cryogenic damages (LNG) Understanding of fuel characteristics on ships subject to the IGF Code as found on a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)		situation conform to established procedures in line with best practice

Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**	**Column 4**
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Apply occupational health and safety precautions and measures	Awareness of function of gas-measuring instruments and similar equipment: .1 gas testing Proper use of specialized safety equipment and protective devices, including: .1 breathing apparatus .2 protective clothing .3 resuscitators .4 rescue and escape equipment Basic knowledge of safe working practices and procedures in accordance with legislation and industry guidelines and personal shipboard safety relevant to ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .1 precautions to be taken before entering hazardous spaces and zones .2 precautions to be taken before and during repair and maintenance work .3 safety measures for hot and cold work Basic knowledge of first aid with reference to a Safety Data Sheet (SDS)	Examination or assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Procedures and safe working practices designed to safeguard personnel and the ship are observed at all times Appropriate safety and protective equipment is correctly used First aid dos and don'ts

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Carry out firefighting operations on a ship subject to the IGF Code	Fire organization and action to be taken on ships subject to the IGF Code Special hazards associated with fuel systems and fuel handling on ships subject to the IGF Code Firefighting agents and methods used to control and extinguish fires in conjunction with the different fuels found on board ships subject to the IGF Code Firefighting system operations	Practical exercises and instruction conducted under approved and truly realistic training conditions (e.g. Simulated shipboard conditions) and, whenever possible and practicable, in darkness	Initial actions and follow-up actions on becoming aware of an emergency conform with established practices and procedures Action taken on identifying muster signals is appropriate to the indicated emergency and complies with established procedures Clothing and equipment are appropriate to the nature of the firefighting operations The timing and sequence of individual actions are appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions Extinguishment of fire is achieved using appropriate procedures techniques and firefighting agents

Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**	**Column 4**
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Respond to emergencies	Basic knowledge of emergency procedures, including emergency shutdown	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	The type and impact of the emergency is promptly identified and the response actions conform to the emergency procedures and contingency plans
Take precautions to prevent pollution of the environment from the release of fuels found on ships subject to the IGF Code	Basic knowledge of measures to be taken in the event of leakage/spillage/ venting of fuels from ships subject to the IGF Code, including the need to: .1 report relevant information to the responsible persons .2 awareness of shipboard spill/leakage/venting response procedures .3 awareness of appropriate personal protection when responding to a spill/ leakage of fuels addressed by the IGF Code	Examination or assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Procedures designed to safeguard the environment are observed at all times

Table A-V/3-2

Specification of minimum standard of competence of advanced training for ships subject to the IGF Code

Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**	**Column 4**
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Familiarity with physical and chemical properties of fuels aboard ships subject to the IGF Code	Basic knowledge and understanding of simple chemistry and physics and the relevant definitions related to safe bunkering and use of fuels used on board ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .1 the chemical structure of different fuels used on board ships subject to the IGF Code .2 the properties and characteristics of fuels used on board ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .2.1 simple physical laws .2.2 states of matter .2.3 liquid and vapour densities .2.4 boil-off and weathering of cryogenic fuels .2.5 compression and expansion of gases .2.6 critical pressure and temperature of gases	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Effective use is made of information resources for identification of properties and characteristics of fuels addressed by the IGF Code and their impact on safety, environmental protection and ship operation

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	.2.7 flashpoint, upper and lower flammable limits, auto-ignition temperature .2.8 saturated vapour pressure/ reference temperature .2.9 dewpoint and bubble point .2.10 hydrate formation .2.11 combustion properties: heating values .2.12 methane number/ knocking .2.13 pollutant characteristics of fuels addressed by the IGF Code .3 the properties of single liquids .4 the nature and properties of solutions .5 thermodynamic units .6 basic thermodynamic laws and diagrams .7 properties of materials .8 effect of low temperature, including brittle fracture, for liquid cryogenic fuels Understanding the information contained in a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) about fuels addressed by the IGF Code		

Column 1	**Column 2**	**Column 3**	**Column 4**
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Operate controls of fuel related to propulsion plant and engineering systems and services and safety devices on ships subject to the IGF Code	Operating principles of marine power plants Ships' auxiliary machinery Knowledge of marine engineering terms	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Plant, auxiliary machinery and equipment is operated in accordance with technical specifications and within safe operating limits at all times
Ability to safely perform and monitor all operations related to the fuels used on board ships subject to the IGF Code	Design and characteristics of ships subject to the IGF Code Knowledge of ship design, systems, and equipment found on ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .1 fuel systems for different propulsion engines .2 general arrangement and construction .3 fuel storage systems on board ships subject to the IGF Code, including materials of construction and insulation .4 fuel-handling equipment and instrumentations on board ships: .4.1 fuel pumps and pumping arrangements .4.2 fuel pipelines	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Communications are clear and understood Successful ship operations using fuels addressed by the IGF Code are carried out in a safe manner, taking into account ship designs, systems and equipment Pumping operations are carried out in accordance with accepted principles and procedures and are relevant to the type of fuel Operations are planned, risk is managed and carried out in accordance with accepted principles and procedures to ensure safety of operations and to avoid pollution of the marine environment

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	.4.3 expansion devices .4.4 flame screens .4.5 temperature monitoring systems .4.6 fuel tank level-gauging systems .4.7 tank pressure monitoring and control systems .5 cryogenic fuel tanks temperature and pressure maintenance .6 fuel system atmosphere control systems (inert gas, nitrogen), including storage, generation and distribution .7 toxic and flammable gas-detecting systems .8 fuel Emergency Shut Down system (ESD) Knowledge of fuel system theory and characteristics, including types of fuel system pumps and their safe operation on board ships subject to the IGF Code .1 low pressure pumps .2 high pressure pumps .3 vaporizers .4 heaters		

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	.5 pressure build-up units Knowledge of safe procedures and checklists for taking fuel tanks in and out of service, including: .1 inerting .2 cooling down .3 initial loading .4 pressure control .5 heating of fuel .6 emptying systems		
Plan and monitor safe bunkering, stowage and securing of the fuel on board ships subject to the IGF Code	General knowledge of ships subject to the IGF Code Ability to use all data available on board related to bunkering, storage and securing of fuels addressed by the IGF Code Ability to establish clear and concise communications and between the ship and the terminal, truck or the bunker- supply ship Knowledge of safety and emergency procedures for operation of machinery, fuel- and control systems for ships subject to the IGF Code Proficiency in the operation of bunkering systems on board ships subject to the IGF Code including:	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved simulator training .3 approved training programme .4 approved laboratory equipment training or witnessing bunker operation	Fuel quality and quantity is determined taking into account the current conditions and necessary corrective safe measures are taken Procedures for monitoring safety systems to ensure that all alarms are detected promptly and acted upon in accordance with established procedures Operations are planned and carried out in accordance with fuel transfer manuals and procedures to ensure safety of operations and avoid spill damages

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	.1 bunkering procedures .2 emergency procedures .3 ship-shore/ship-ship interface .4 prevention of rollover Proficiency to perform fuel-system measurements and calculations, including: .1 maximum fill quantity .2 On Board Quantity (OBQ) .3 Minimum Remain On Board (ROB) .4 fuel consumption calculations Ability to ensure the safe management of bunkering and other IGF Code fuel related operations concurrent with other onboard operations, both in port and at sea		and pollution of the environment Personnel are allocated duties and informed of procedures and standards of work to be followed, in a manner appropriate to the individuals concerned and in accordance with safe working procedures
Take precautions to prevent pollution of the environment from the release of fuels from ships subject to the IGF Code	Knowledge of the effects of pollution on human and environment Knowledge of measures to be taken in the event of spillage/leakage/ venting	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Procedures designed to safeguard the environment are observed at all times

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
Monitor and control compliance with legislative requirements	Knowledge and understanding of relevant provisions of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), as amended and other relevant IMO instruments, industry guidelines and port regulations as commonly applied Proficiency in the use of the IGF Code and related documents	Assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training	The handling of fuels on board ships subject to the IGF Code complies with relevant IMO instruments and established industrial standards and codes of safe working practices Operations are planned and performed in conformity with approved procedures and legislative requirements
Take precautions to prevent hazards	Knowledge and understanding of the hazards and control measures associated with fuel system operations on board ships subject to the IGF Code, including: .1 flammability .2 explosion .3 toxicity .4 reactivity .5 corrosivity .6 health hazards .7 inert gas composition .8 electrostatic hazards .9 pressurized gases .10 low temperature	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Relevant hazards to the ship and to personnel associated with operations on board ships subject to the IGF Code are correctly identified and proper control measures are taken Use of flammable and toxic gas-detection devices are in accordance with manuals and good practice

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	Proficiency to calibrate and use monitoring and fuel detection systems, instruments and equipment on board ships subject to the IGF Code Knowledge and understanding of dangers of non-compliance with relevant rules/regulations Knowledge and understanding of risks assessment method analysis on board ships subject to the IGF Code Ability to elaborate and develop risks analysis related to risks on board ships subject to the IGF Code Ability to elaborate and develop safety plans and safety instructions for ships subject to the IGF Code Knowledge of hot work, enclosed spaces and tank entry including permitting procedures		
Apply occupational health and safety precautions and measures on board a ship subject to the IGF Code	Proper use of safety equipment and protective devices, including: .1 breathing apparatus and evacuating equipment .2 protective clothing and equipment .3 resuscitators .4 rescue and escape equipment	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience	Appropriate safety and protective equipment is correctly used Procedures designed to safeguard personnel and the ship are observed at all times

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	**Knowledge, understanding and proficiency**	**Methods for demonstrating competence**	**Criteria for evaluating competence**
	Knowledge of safe working practices and procedures in accordance with legislation and industry guidelines and personal shipboard safety including: .1 precautions to be taken before, during and after repair and maintenance work on fuel systems addressed in the IGF Code .2 electrical safety (reference to IEC 600079-17) .3 ship/shore safety checklist Basic knowledge of first aid with reference to a Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for fuels addressed by the IGF Code	.3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	Working practices are in accordance with legislative requirements, codes of practice, permits to work and environmental concerns First aid dos and don'ts
Knowledge of the prevention, control and firefighting and extinguishing systems on board ships subject to the IGF Code	Knowledge of the methods and firefighting appliances to detect, control and extinguish fires of fuels addressed by the IGF Code	Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following: .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training .4 approved training programme	The type and scale of the problem is promptly identified, and initial actions conform with the emergency procedures for fuels addressed by the IGF Code Evacuation, emergency shutdown and isolation procedures are appropriate to the fuels addressed by the IGF Code

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