



Antigua and Barbuda  
Maritime Administration

STCW Circular  
No. 2013-001  
Rev 4  
12 April 2021

**SUBJECT:** Security Training for Seafarers

**REFERENCE:**

- a) *Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 2006, as amended*
- b) *International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978 and Code Section A/VII/6,*

**TO:** Ship-owners, operators, filing agents, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organisations.

**1. PURPOSE**

This Circular provides information on the changed requirements in the 2010 Manila amendments to the STCW Convention Section A-VI/6 on security training. There is a requirement for approval of security familiarisation training applicable to all seafarers and this circular sets out how approval can be ensured.

**2. APPLICATION**

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships.

**3. BACKGROUND**

[STCW Circular 1998-001](#) (Responsibilities of Companies), outlines the essential responsibilities for Companies in terms of the STCW Convention. That Convention was amended in 2010 (The Manila Amendments) and some of these came into force on 1 January 2014.

Of particular importance are the changes in security training required for seafarers. This training is required by all personnel employed or engaged on seagoing ships to which the ISPS Code applies. These regulations will be enforced and subjected to Port State Control inspections starting on 1 January 2014. This Circular sets out the requirements and the processes for approval of training.

**4. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The STCW VI/6 requirements.

**1. Security-related familiarisation training**

1. The amended requirement states that approved security-related familiarisation training must be conducted by the Ship Security Officer to all persons employed
2. or engaged in any capacity on ships which are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code, prior to them being assigned shipboard duties. This training should emphasize ship security issues and provide guidance for seafarers to at least be able to:

1. report a security incident, including a piracy or armed robbery threat or attack.
2. know the procedures to follow when they recognize a security threat; and
3. take part in security-related emergency and contingency procedures.

3. In this, the approach is very similar to that adopted in STCW VI/1 for Safety Familiarisation Training and it is anticipated that the Security Related Familiarisation Training will normally be incorporated into the normal safety familiarisation training programme and incorporated into the ship's ISM system.

4. Documentary evidence must be kept by the ship to demonstrate that this training has been completed. The existing method of recording the safety familiarisation training may be adopted to document the completion of the security-related familiarisation training.

### **5. Approval of training**

1. The amended requirement states that the security related familiarisation training must be "approved". ADOMS will accept that any security familiarisation training that is included in the "approved" ship security manual and which covers the material in Section A-VI/6 paragraph 1 may be regarded as "approved" for the purposes of the STCW requirement.

### **6. Trainers**

1. The STCW says that the person delivering the training should be the ship's Security Officer or an "equally qualified person". ADOMS would confirm that any person holding a Ship Security Officer certificate is regarded as an "equally qualified person" for the purposes of delivering this training.

## **2. Security awareness training:**

1. In addition to the security-related familiarisation training, security awareness training must be undertaken by all seafarers without designated security duties employed or engaged in any capacity on ships which are required to comply with the ISPS Code. This training leads to the issuance of an STCW Certificate of Proficiency meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraph 4, of the STCW Code. On completion of this training, a seafarer will at least be able to:

1. contribute to the enhancement of maritime security through heightened awareness.
2. recognize security threats; and
3. understand the need for, and methods of, maintaining security awareness and vigilance.

2. This training will generally be part of a shore-based course which has been approved.

### **3. Transitional provisions:**

1. The Manila Amendments allowed for a transitional period during which seafarers who commenced service prior to the date of entry of the requirement can satisfy this security awareness training by demonstrating:
  1. approved seagoing service for at least 6 months in the previous three years; or
  2. having performed security functions considered equivalent to 6 months service in the past three years, or
  3. by passing an approved test, or
  4. by completing the approved training.
2. That transition period ended on 1 January 2014 and owners are reminded that they need to ensure that all seafarers who require this training acquire the appropriate documentary evidence of training before that date.
3. However, ADOMS has been advised that in some country's final approval of some security awareness training courses has not yet been completed. Seafarers who have been serving on board after 1 January 2014, and who have not been able to attend an approved security awareness training course in accordance with STCW Section A-VI/6.4 prior to joining will not be in possession of documentation showing attendance at an "approved" course.
4. For these seafarers, and until courses are approved in their country of origin, ADOMS will accept documentary evidence of attendance at any security awareness course that covers the subject material in STCW Table A-VI/6-1 even though the course may not yet be "approved" by the administration in the country of origin. On completion of their contracts these seafarers should complete the approved training before engaging another contract and in any event the seafarer shall have evidence of completing an approved course by 1 July 2015 at the latest.

### **3. Seafarers with designated security duties:**

1. This training must be undertaken by seafarers, employed or engaged in any capacity on ships which are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code, who have designated duties under the ships security plan, including anti-piracy and anti-armed robbery-related activities. This training leads to the issuance of a STCW Certificate of Proficiency meeting the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraphs 6-8, of the STCW Code 1978, as amended. On completion of this training, a seafarer will at least be able to:
  1. maintain the conditions set out in a ship security plan;
  2. recognize security risks and threats;
  3. undertake regular security inspections; and
  4. properly use security equipment and systems.

2. Like the Security Awareness training, this requirement had transitional provisions in place until 1 January 2014. Seafarers with designated security duties who commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 1 January 2014 can demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code 1978 until 1 January 2014 by:
  1. Having approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel with designated security duties, for a period of at least 6 months in total during the preceding 3 years, or
  2. Having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service required above, or
  3. Passing an approved test, or
  4. Completing approved training
3. **These are transitional provisions and after 1 January 2014 these seafarers must have the full documentation required by Section A-VI/6 paragraph 6.**
4. Certificates of proficiency on security-related training in security awareness Section A-VI/6 (4) and in designated security duties Section A-VI/6 (6-8) issued by Member Parties of the STCW Convention will be recognized by Antigua and Barbuda.
5. **For the avoidance of doubt, it is confirmed that seafarers who have a certificate of proficiency as ship security officer [Section A-VI/5] are considered to have met both the “approved” security awareness training and the “approved” security training for seafarers with designated security duties.**
6. Seafarers without designated security duties must complete the security awareness training set out in Section A-VI/6 of the STCW Code 1978, as amended, at least one time in their career.
7. Table B-I/2 of the STCW Code, as amended, contains a list of certificates or documentary evidence required under the relevant provisions of the Convention. Please note that the certificates or documentary evidence under the 2010 Amendments have changed in respect of contents and title. However, Administrations may issue certificates and documentary evidence under the provisions of the 1995 STCW amendments with a validity that should not extend beyond 1 January 2017 or new certificates under the provisions of the 2010 Amendments, as appropriate.

#### **4. Transitional provisions which do not relate to certification issues**

1. Reg. I/15 applies to the certification of seafarers. Therefore, any amendments that do not directly involve certification of seafarers under Reg. I/15 should have been implemented as of 1 January 2012.
2. The amended requirements of Chapter VIII (Standards regarding watchkeeping) will come into force on 1 January 2012. However, some aspects of seafarer training, for

example, Engine-room Resource Management (ERM) or Bridge Resource Management (BRM), were required to be completed as of 1 January 2017.

## **5. Security-related training provisions**

1. Acknowledging the close entry into force date of the 2010 Amendments, practical difficulties may arise for all seafarers with security-related requirements in obtaining the necessary certificates and/or the necessary endorsements required in accordance with Reg. VI/6 of the 2010 Amendments. Transitional provisions under Section A-VI/6 provide for the recognition of the training of seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012 as valid until 1 January 2014. But after 1 January 2014 full compliance with the requirements of Section A-VI/6 is required.
2. Seafarers who have joined ships before 1 January 2014 and who will be serving on board after 1 January 2014, and who have not been able to attend an approved security awareness training course or the approved training for seafarers with designated security duties in accordance with STCW Section A-VI/6.4 or STCW Section A-VI/6.6 prior to joining will not be in possession of documentation showing attendance at an “approved” course. Courses in some countries have not yet been approved by the respective competent authorities.
3. For these seafarers, and until courses are approved in their country of origin, ADOMS will accept documentary evidence of attendance at any security awareness course that covers the subject material in STCW Table A-VI/6-1 or Table A-VI/6-2 as appropriate even though the course may not yet be “approved” by the administration in the country of origin. On completion of their contracts these seafarers must complete the approved training before engaging another contract.
4. Owners and Managers are urged to ensure that the 2010 amendments are implemented as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition to full compliance prior to 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2014 for the security training elements.

### **Issued by**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping  
(ADOMS) St. John's