

ANNEX 4

STCW.7/Circ.xx
XX November 2012

ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (ECDIS) TRAINING

1 The Maritime Safety Committee [at its ninety first session (26 to 30 November 2012)], approved the guidance on ECDIS training below for Member Governments, Parties, Companies and seafarers.

2 The guidance below aims to assist Member Governments, Parties, Companies and seafarers in ensuring that training in the use of ECDIS is provided to masters and officers¹ certificated under chapter II or VII of the STCW Convention serving on ships fitted with ECDIS.

- .1 The mandatory carriage of ECDIS, as required by SOLAS regulation V/19.2.10, will be subject to a staged entry into force between 1 July 2012 and 1 July 2018.
- .2 The 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention have introduced ECDIS training for master and officers.
- .3 The transitional provisions of the 2010 Manila Amendments require seafarers to be trained according to the new competence standards before 1 January 2017.
- .4 There is however, for some ships, a potential training gap associated with the ECDIS carriage requirement. Masters and officers certificated under chapter II of the STCW Convention on ships fitted with ECDIS might not have received ECDIS training satisfying the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments. This potential gap may occur up to 1 January 2017.
- .5 Masters and officers certificated under chapter II of the STCW Convention serving on board ships fitted with ECDIS are to be familiarized (in accordance with STCW regulation I/14) with the ship's equipment including ECDIS.
- .6 ECDIS manufacturers are encouraged to provide resources, such as type specific materials, which could be provided on a CD or DVD. These resources may form part of the ECDIS familiarization training.
- .7 While there may be no requirement for masters and officers serving on vessels fitted with ECDIS to meet the 2010 Manila Amendments before 1 January 2017, it is encouraged prior to serving on such vessels that these seafarers should be provided with generic training, for example, the IMO model course 1.27.

¹ Training and assessment in the use of ECDIS is not required for those who serve exclusively on ships not fitted with ECDIS. This limitation shall be reflected in the endorsements issued to the seafarer concerned (refer to tables A-II/1 and A-II/2 of the STCW Code).

- .8 After 1 January 2017, all masters and officers serving on ships fitted with ECDIS certificated under chapter II of the STCW Convention shall have undertaken appropriate generic ECDIS training, (which may be based upon IMO model course 1.27), meeting the competence requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code.
- .9 Regulation I/14, paragraph 1.5 of the STCW Convention, as well as sections 6.3 and 6.5 of the International Safety Management Code, requires companies to ensure seafarers are provided with familiarization training. A ship safety management system should include familiarization of the ECDIS equipment fitted, including its backup arrangements, sensors and related peripherals. To assist Member Governments, Parties, Companies and seafarers, a record of such familiarization should be provided.
- .10 Administrations should inform their port State control officers of the requirements for ECDIS training as detailed in paragraph 9 above. A certificate of competency issued in accordance² with the 2010 Manila Amendments would be prima facie evidence of generic ECDIS training; however, a record of the ship specific familiarization of the ECDIS should be provided.
- .11 Attention is also drawn to STCW.7/Circ.17, Advice for port State control officers on transitional arrangements leading up to the full implementation of the requirements of the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code on 1 January 2017 and STCW.7/Circ.16 Clarification of transitional provisions relating to the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention and Code.

3 Member Governments, Parties and Companies are invited to take into account the above to ensure that the necessary ECDIS training is conducted.
