

ANNEX 1

DRAFT STCW.7 CIRCULAR

GENERIC INTERIM GUIDELINES ON TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS ON SHIPS USING ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), at its eightieth session (3 to 7 July 2023), adopted the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy (resolution MEPC.377(80)) outlining the Organization's commitment to reducing GHG emissions from international shipping and, as a matter of urgency, aiming to phase them out as soon as possible, while promoting, in the context of this strategy, a just and equitable transition.

2 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 107th session (31 May to 9 June 2023), agreed to include in its biennial agenda for 2024-2025 a continuous output on "Development of a safety regulatory framework to support the reduction of GHG emissions from ships using new technologies and alternative fuels", assigning the Committee as the coordinating organ, in association with the CCC, HTW, III, SSE and SDC Sub-Committees as and when requested by the Committee, and invited MEPC to consider being an associated organ.

3 The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), at its tenth session (5 to 9 February 2024), agreed that the above-mentioned continuous output of MSC could be utilized to develop training provisions for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels. MSC, at its 108th session (15 to 24 May 2024), endorsed the agreement by the HTW Sub-Committee.

4 MSC, at its 110th session (18 to 27 June 2025), having considered a proposal made by the HTW Sub-Committee at its eleventh session (10 to 14 February 2025), approved the *Generic interim guidelines on training for seafarers using alternative fuels and new technologies* (the Generic Interim Guidelines), as set out in the annex. MSC agreed to keep these Guidelines under review, taking into account operational experience gained with their application.

5 Member States are invited to bring the Interim Generic Guidelines to the attention of all concerned.

ANNEX

GENERIC INTERIM GUIDELINES ON TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS ON SHIPS USING ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of these *Generic interim guidelines on training for seafarers using alternative fuels and new technologies* (the Generic Interim Guidelines) is to provide a reference for the development and approval of training for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping.

Application

1.2 Unless expressly provided otherwise, these Generic Interim Guidelines apply to seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies.

1.3 Where specific provisions of this document differ from the requirements of mandatory instruments applicable to seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies (including the IGF Code, IGC Code, and the STCW Convention and Code), the provisions of those mandatory instruments should take precedence.

Goal

1.4 The goal of these Generic Interim Guidelines is to provide an international standard for the development and approval of training of seafarers serving on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies.

General provisions for training and familiarization

1.5 All seafarers serving on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies should, prior to being assigned shipboard duties, be familiarized with their specific duties and with all ship arrangements, installations, equipment, procedures and ship characteristics that are relevant to their routine or emergency duties, as specified in STCW regulation I/14.5.

1.6 In addition, seafarers should receive appropriate training on the associated risks and emergency procedures, in accordance with their duties and responsibilities.

1.7 On that basis, the following training approach comprising basic and advanced training levels may be applied:

- .1 basic training for seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel and systems on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies; and
- .2 advanced training for the masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuel and systems on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies.

1.8 For new technologies, alternative training approaches may be applied, taking into consideration the training requirements and standards of competences contained in these Guidelines and other IMO guidelines concerning new technologies, as relevant, and to the satisfaction of the Administration.

2 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

General

2.1 Prior to being assigned duties on board a ship using alternative fuels and new technologies, all seafarers should receive appropriate training in accordance with this section.

2.2 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 provisions of this section unreasonable or impracticable, exempt the seafarers on such a ship or class of ships from some of the provisions, bearing in mind the safety of people on board, the ship and property and the protection of the marine environment.

2.3 Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the fuel and/or system on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies should receive basic training or instruction in accordance with paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 and should meet the standard of competence specified therein.

2.4 Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of fuels and/or systems on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies should receive advanced training in accordance with paragraph 3.3 and should meet the standard of competence specified therein.

2.5 Basic and advanced training should be given by qualified personnel experienced in the handling and characteristics of the fuels and/or systems used and the safety procedures involved.

2.6 It is important to emphasize the need to take account of risk analyses. All risk analyses carried out should be made available to participants during training.

3 STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE

Standard of competence for basic training

3.1 Seafarers responsible for designated safety duties associated with the care, use or in emergency response to the use of the fuels and/or systems on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies should, before being assigned to shipboard duties:

- .1 receive basic training or instruction as determined by the Administration on the use of the fuels and/or systems so as to:
 - .1 contribute to the safe operation of a ship;
 - .2 take precautions to prevent hazards on a ship;
 - .3 apply occupational health and safety precautions and measures;
 - .4 carry out firefighting operations on a ship;

- .5 respond to emergencies; and
- .6 take precautions to prevent pollution of the environment from ships; and
- .2 be required to provide evidence of having achieved the standard of competence provided to undertake their duties and responsibilities through:
 - .1 demonstration of competence in accordance with the methods and criteria for evaluating competence determined by the Administration; and
 - .2 examination or continuous assessment as part of a training programme determined by the Administration.

3.2 Documentary evidence should be issued by the Administration indicating that the holder has completed the basic training.

Standard of competence for advanced training

3.3 Masters, engineer officers and all personnel with immediate responsibility for the care and use of the fuels and/or systems on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies should, before being assigned to shipboard duties:

- .1 receive advanced training as determined by the Administration on the use of the fuels and/or systems so as to:
 - .1 be familiar with physical and chemical properties of the fuels and/or characteristics of the systems aboard ships;
 - .2 operate controls of the fuels and/or systems related to propulsion plant and engineering systems and services and safety devices on ships;
 - .3 be able to safely perform and monitor all operations related to the fuels and/or systems used on board ships;
 - .4 plan and monitor safe bunkering, stowage and securing of the fuels on board ships;
 - .5 take precautions to prevent pollution of the environment from ships;
 - .6 monitor and control compliance with legislative requirements;
 - .7 take precautions to prevent hazards;
 - .8 apply occupational health and safety precautions and measures on board ships; and
 - .9 have knowledge of the prevention, control and firefighting and extinguishing systems on board ships;

- .2 be required to provide evidence of having achieved the standard of competence provided to undertake their duties and responsibilities through:
 - .1 demonstration of competence in accordance with the methods and criteria for evaluating competence determined by the Administration; and
 - .2 examination or continuous assessment as part of a training programme determined by the Administration; and
- .3 be issued with documentary evidence by the Administration indicating that the holder has completed the advanced training.

4 EMERGENCY EXERCISES

4.1 Emergency exercises related to the fuels and/or systems on board ships using alternative fuels and new technologies should be conducted at regular intervals. The response and safety system for hazard and accident control should be reviewed and tested.
