



# IMO HTW 9 Meeting Summary

20 February, 2023

The 9th session of the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 9) was held 6-10 February 2023 at the IMO Headquarters in London, supplemented by hybrid (online) arrangements.

Among others, LISCR participated in the following groups in addition to the plenary:

	Agenda item
WG 2	Working Group on the Comprehensive Review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code
WG 3	Working Group on Implementation of the STCW Convention

## Openings

As an opening remark, HTW 9 noted the interventions on the imprisonment of Captain Yu Yihai, the former master of the MV *Mount Hikurangi*. Although a contraband substance was found on the ship, the master was arrested only for the reason that he was the master of the ship. The Secretariat advised HTW 9 of the work undertaken by the Legal Committee in this regard.

## Decisions of other bodies

HTW noted the following development:

- Formation of the Joint ILO-IMO tripartite working group on human element;
- Holistic approach on Human Elements by all IMO Sub-Committees;
- The IMO Code (digital communication protocol) for ship-shore machine-to-machine communications on crew rank or rating; and
- The Impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on the functioning of the system of maritime education and training institutions in Ukraine.

## Model training course

HTW 9 validated the following model training courses:

- Passenger safety, cargo safety and hull integrity training (new);
- Engine-room Resource Management (new);
- Bridge Resource Management (revised);
- Advanced training in fire-fighting (revised);
- Security Awareness Training for All Port Facility

Personnel (revised);

- Security Training for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties (revised);
- Security Awareness Training for All Seafarers (revised)
- Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats other than Fast Rescue Boats (revised);
- Proficiency in Fast Rescue Boats (revised); and
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting (revised).

## Role of human element

### Joint ILO/IMO Tripartite Working Group to identify and address seafarers' issues and the human element

HTW 9 noted:

- The first meeting was held in December 2022 on how to deal with seafarer abandonment cases;
- The second meeting would be held in 4Q 2023 on bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment; and
- The third meeting will be held in 2024 on fair treatment of seafarers detained on suspicion of committing maritime crimes.

### Information papers

HTW 9 noted the following information:

- Implementation of training programmes for MASS (Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships) personnel;
- Assessing human element in navigational safety using artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools in a simulator;
- Experience of conducting courses on navigation in polar waters; and
- Experience gained from the use of remote training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Fraudulent certificates

HTW 9 noted the information provided on fraudulent certificates by the IMO Secretariat and invited members to submit proposals for a strategy to address the problems associated with fraudulent certificates of competence.

### Implementing the STCW Convention

The IMO has been reviewing the communication provision between the parties of the Convention and the IMO Secretary General, as the current level of communication was considered not appropriate for maintaining the “White List”.

While the correspondence group proposed an improved procedure, the IMO Secretariat expressed their concerns over the resource demand at their end.

HTW 9 agreed to include the matter in the comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention and Code.

### Comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention and Code

#### Sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH)

HTW 9 agreed to introduce SASH training in the STCW Convention, Table A-VI/1-4, as part of basic training for all seafarers. The new text will be approved by the 107th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 107) for approval and subsequent adoption by MSC 108.

The text will also be reviewed by the second meeting of the ILO-IMO Joint Tripartite Working Group.

The issue of psychological safety was not included in this amendment but will be considered as part of the comprehensive revision.

#### Other matters relating to the comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention

Following the initial discussion, HTW 9 set up high-level aims and principles, and tasked the correspondence group (CG) to review specific area of concern and to set up the roadmap. The agreed high-level principles include:

- to address new and obsolete competencies and proficiencies, outdated requirements and unnecessary duplications;
- to address the impact and possibilities of digitalization and emerging technologies on ships and ship operations;
- to address the impact and possibilities from the implementation and use of digitalization and emerging technologies in seafarers' education, training and certification;
- **not** to address minimum safe manning levels, which are regulated by the SOLAS Convention; and
- to ensure that the standards within the Convention

and Code for the training and certification of seafarers, to the extent possible, facilitate mobility of seafarers across different ship types and trades.

### Quality of onboard training

HTW 9 reviewed the report of the correspondence group set up by HTW 8 in 2022. However, due to the limited participation and coordination, the CG did not have any focused discussion.

HTW 9 agreed to address this matter as part of the comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention and Code.

### Mandatory seagoing service

There was a submission paper proposing to put an obligation on shipowners to place officer trainees on board ships to comply with this mandatory seagoing service requirement. The paper also proposed recognition of simulator training. While there were supporting opinions expressed to the proposals, concerns were also expressed, such as:

- a practical implication to the manning requirements,
- a caution to utilizing simulator training,
- the shortage of officer candidates may not be caused by the shortage of accommodation berth.

HTW 9 agreed to address this matter as part of the comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention and Code.

### Training provision on the BWM Convention

Owing to a lack of submission papers, HTW 9 agreed to address this matter as part of the comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention and Code.

### Any Other Business

#### Carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in Arctic

The PPR Sub-Committee requested the HTW Sub-Committee to review section 7 (Familiarization, training and drills) of the draft *Guidelines on mitigation measures to reduce risks of use and carriage for use of heavy fuel oil (HFO) as fuel by ships in Arctic waters*.

HTW 9 agreed to present the revised text to the PPR Sub-Committee, which addresses, among others:

- To remove repetition of the provision already given in the Polar Code or in the STCW Convention or Code: and
- Replacing the term "crew" with "seafarers".

#### Electronic certificate

The Secretariat, following the discussion on the submission

to MSC 106 on the proposed clarification on the use of electronic STCW certificate by Liberia and others and the discussion at MSC 106, prepared a base document for further discussion.

HTW 9, while noting the discussion at MSC 106, agreed that no further clarification was needed with respect to the responsibilities of the Administrations involved in issuing electronic certificates, i.e. those issuing the original certificate and those issuing certificates by endorsement.

Further, HTW 9 did not find a need to clarify how to verify the electronic certificate, which will be kept in the data server of the Administration.

HTW 9 subsequently recommended MSC 107 to approve the guidelines developed by HTW 8.

In addition, HTW 9 referred the draft guidelines to FAL 47 to verify consistency with *the Guidelines on the use of electronic certificates* (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2).

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact: [imo@liscr.com](mailto:imo@liscr.com)

## HTW 9 – Summary of Major Decisions

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### PROVISIONAL LIST OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND CIRCULARS

- STCW Convention, Table A-VI/1-4