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STCW.2/Circ.92
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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION
AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS (STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED**

**Communication received from the Government of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith a communication received from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as set out in the annex.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

ANNEX



**Permanent Representative
of the UK to the IMO
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Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
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01 July 2020

Dear Secretary-General

Equivalent arrangement accepted under Article IX of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, 1978 (STCW), as amended

In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Merchant Shipping (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping) Regulations 2015, implement the requirements of the International Convention and Code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW) 1978, as amended including the provisions prescribing the mandatory minimum requirements for the certification of Masters and Officers.

Minimum periods of seagoing service for Officers of The Watch (OOW) are prescribed under the STCW Convention regulation II/1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), has worked with industry to develop and approve a cadet simulator training programme and assessment. The training in a full mission bridge simulator will be credited towards the seagoing service requirements of STCW regulations II/1 and section A-II/1 of the code for a maximum of two months of seagoing service. We are utilising the provisions of Article IX of the STCW Convention to allow for the following remissions:

- 5 days in a full mission bridge simulator for 15 days of seagoing service,
- 10 days in a full mission bridge simulator for 30 days of seagoing service,
- 20 day in a full mission bridge for 60 days of seagoing service.

Simulator time will be completed within a structured 'Bridge Watchkeeping Skills Simulator Course'. The course will provide a logical progression of events, experiences, and training, to enhance the experiences a cadet receives onboard a ship. The simulator provides the cadet a decision-making environment that may not be available on a ship, especially in high traffic density/restricted visibility. The overall aim is to provide trainee seafarers with the necessary underpinning knowledge to familiarise with the bridge watchkeeping duties in accordance with MCA requirements and as per STCW table II/1.



SUPPORTING



Only training centres approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will be permitted to run Bridge Watchkeeping Skills Simulator Course. All approvals will be carried out by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in accordance with Annex F of MSN1865(M). Re-approval by the MCA will be carried out within 5 years of the approval or re-approval provided that the training provider maintains all the MCA requirements and receives a satisfactory mid-term audit.

Instructors and assessors are required to be qualified in accordance with the requirements of Regulation I/6 and section A-I/6 of STCW.

Training centres seeking approval will need to demonstrate availability of suitable facilities for practical and theoretical instruction, be appropriately equipped with teaching and learning aids and designed to enable each learner to be fully engaged in the learning process.

All facilities and equipment must be maintained, inspected and tested in accordance with applicable regulations, current standards and manufacturers recommendations.

All simulators used for Bridge Watchkeeping Skills Simulator Course, must be approved by the MCA and must comply with the IMO performance standards as per Regulation I/12 of the STCW Convention, 1978, as amended.

The following IMO performance standards apply to the training and assessment:

- Radar simulation equipment;
- Navigational and watchkeeping simulation equipment.
- ECDIS simulation equipment;

The simulator must be capable of simulating the operational performance capabilities of shipboard navigational equipment appropriate to the performance standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulation 1/12 and sections A-I/12 and B-I/12. The full mission simulation equipment shall have a valid certificate approved by the recognised organisation.

The UK is fully satisfied that the level of sea-going service, knowledge, experience, and efficiency provided under the above arrangement enhances competency of the seafarer to ensure the safety of themselves, others and the protection of the marine environment at least equivalent to the requirements of the STCW Convention.

We would be most grateful if the Secretariat could assist in the dissemination of this letter to IMO member states, NGOs, IGOs, and other interested parties through the usual way.

Yours sincerely



Katy Ware
Permanent Representative of the UK to the IMO
Director of Maritime Safety and Standards