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**IMO MEETING REPORT**

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| DATE: 20 February 2025 | COMMITTEE: MSC |
| ATTENDEE: Andy Williams | SUB GROUP: HTW |

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| This was the 11th session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping, held from the 10th to 14th February 2025. I attended remotely on the 10th and the 14th February.    ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE LEISURE/SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY  **Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code –** It may be recalled from the HTW 10 report that the roadmap comprises two stages:   * Review stage * Revision stage   The review stage, which was finalised at this session, was a gap analysis to identify the work that needs to be done. The revision stage will address these gaps. Over 500 gaps have been identified. This is a significant number and more than originally anticipated. The original intention was to conclude the entire review with the adoption of the amendments to the STCW Code and Convention and associated resolutions in autumn 2027. This has now been postponed to HTW 17 in early 2031 with entry into force some time after 2031, a decision which caused some concern for a number of member states and observer organisations.  The list of identified gaps can be found at annex 1 of the attached report of the working group on the comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW convention and code in document HTTW 11/WP.4. This document also contains the work plan for the revision stage of the review.  **Draft MSC resolution on accessibility of information related to medical provisions in the STCW Convention –** The Sub-Committee agreed to the draft MSC resolution on Accessibility of information on seafarer medical certificates and medical practitioners recognized for the purpose of conducting seafarer medical examinations. This resolution encourages government organisations to provide information on their official websites where the validity of seafarer medical certificates can be checked, and to also provide access to their registers of recognised medical practitioners through the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) portal. The text of the resolution can be found at annex 4 of the attached report of the working group on the comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW convention and code in document HTTW 11/WP.4.  **Development of interim guidance on training for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies –** The Sub-Committee identified the need for detailed guidance on training seafarers for ships utilizing alternative fuels and new technologies, emphasizing the importance of addressing different risk profiles. They agreed that such guidance should be provided through:   1. **Comprehensive Training Programs**: Development of specialized training programs tailored to the use of alternative fuels and new technologies on ships. These programs would encompass both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to ensure seafarers are well-prepared for the unique challenges posed by these innovations. 2. **Standardized Guidelines and Best Practices**: Creation of standardized guidelines and best practices to be followed by the maritime industry. These would serve as a reference for training institutions and maritime organizations, ensuring a consistent and effective approach to seafarer training.   The Sub-Committee agreed a priority list of fuels/energy sources for which guidelines for training seafarers was agree as follows:   1. The use of methyl/ethyl alcohols as fuel 2. The use of ammonia as fuel 3. Hydrogen fuel cell powered ship 4. The use of LPG as fuel 5. The use of hydrogen as fuel 6. Battery powered ships   The Sub-Committee also agreed to the draft interim guidelines for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies which can be found at annex 1 of the attached report of the working group  on development of training provisions for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and technologies in document HTW 11/WP.5 and the draft interim guidelines on training for seafarers on ships using methyl/ethyl alcohol as fuel in annex 2 of the same document.  **Validation of model training courses –** The Sub-Committee validated the following draft revised Model Courses:   * Model Course 1.25 on General Operator's Certificates for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) * Model Course 1.26 on Restricted Operator's Certificate for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) * Model Course 3.20 on Company Security Officer * Model Course 3.21 on Port Facility Security Officer * Model Course 3.23 on Actions to be Taken to Prevent Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery   These draft model courses will be published  following a final editorial review by the Secretariat.    **Draft report of the Sub-Committee** – The draft report can be found in attached document HTW 11/WP.1/Rev.1.  PRINCIPAL ISSUES:  The meeting agenda was as follows:   1. Adoption of the agenda 2. Decisions of other IMO bodies 3. Validated model training courses 4. Role of the human element 5. Reports on unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency 6. Comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code 7. Development of a safety regulatory framework to support the reduction of GHG emissions from ships using new technologies and alternative fuels 8. Biennial status report and provision agenda for HTW 12 9. Election of chair and vice-chair for 2026 10. Any other business 11. Report to the Maritime Safety Committee   Three working groups and one drafting group were established as follows:   1. Working group on the comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code. The terms of reference of this group were: 2. Finalize the list of gaps identified in the 1978 STCW Convention and Code, based on annex 1 to document HTW 11/6 and taking into account the relevant parts of documents HTW 11/2, HTW 11/6/1, HTW 11/6/2, HTW 11/6/4, HTW 11/6/7, HTW 11/6/19, HTW 11/6/23, HTW 11/6/24, HTW 11/6/26, HTW 11/6/27, HTW 11/6/29 and HTW 11/6/30, as well as any related outcomes from the other IMO bodies. 3. Taking into account the need to finalize phase 1 (review/identification of gaps) and the list of gaps identified in the STCW Convention and Code before initiating phase 2, consider whether there is any remaining work for phase 1 and how to organize phase 2 (revision) of the comprehensive review. 4. Taking into account the progress made during this session, as well as sub-paragraph .2 above, update the road map for the comprehensive review, based on annex 6 to document HTW 10/10. 5. if time permits, further consider document HTW 11/6/25 in the context of updating the road map and arrangements for phase 2 of the comprehensive review. 6. Finalize the draft MSC resolution on accessibility of information related to medical provisions in the STCW Convention set out in the annex to document HTW 10/6/9, with a view to approval by the Committee. 7. Prepare draft terms of reference for any intersessional correspondence group(s) on the comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code, to be established at this session, for approval by the Sub-Committee. 8. Prepare draft terms of reference for an intersessional correspondence group on the STCW oversight and verification processes, to be established at this session, for approval by the Sub-Committee, taking into account documents HTW 11/6/3, HTW 11/6/5 and HTW 11/6/28.   2. Working group on the development of training provisions for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and technologies. There terms of reference of this group were:   1. Prepare draft generic interim guidelines on training for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies, taking into account documents HTW 11/7/1, HTW 11/7/5, HTW 11/7/6 and INF.7, and in parallel, develop draft interim guidelines on training for seafarers on ships using alternative fuels and new technologies, including consideration of the need for one comprehensive set or several individual sets of interim guidelines, in the order of priority, addressing.    1. The use of methyl/ethyl alcohol as fuel, taking into account MSC.1/Circ.1621 on Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using methyl/ethyl alcohol as fuel, and relevant parts of documents HTW 11/7, HTW 11/7/1 and HTW 11/7/2.    2. the use of ammonia as fuel, taking into account MSC.1/Circ.1687 on Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using ammonia as fuel, and relevant parts of documents HTW 11/7, HTW 11/7/1, HTW 11/7/2, HTW/7/6 and INF.7, and HTW 11/7/9.    3. Hydrogen fuel cell powered ships, taking into account MSC.1/Circ.1647 on Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using fuel cell power installations, and relevant parts of document HTW 11/7/1.    4. The use of LPG as fuel, taking into account MSC.1/Circ.1666 on Interim guidelines for the safety of ships using LPG as fuel, and relevant parts of document HTW 11/7/1.    5. The use of hydrogen as fuel, taking into account relevant parts of documents HTW 11/7/2, HTW 11/7/6, HTW 11/INF.7 and HTW 11/INF.16.    6. Battery powered ships, taking into account document HTW 11/7/3. 2. Consider if an intersessional correspondence group would be necessary, including the preparation of draft terms of reference for the group, and advise the Sub‑Committee accordingly.   3. Working group on model courses. The terms of reference of this group were:   1. Prepare draft amendments to the Guidelines for the development, review and validation of model courses (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.15/Rev.2), based on the annex to document HTW 11/WP.3 and taking into account documents HTW 11/3/6 and HTW 11/3/7. 2. Consider documents HTW 11/3/4, and Add.1, and HTW 11/3/5, and Add.1, including the corresponding draft model courses and their alignment with the scope of the related provisions in the STCW Code and relevant instruments, and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly with a view to validating the draft model courses at this session. 3. Prepare draft terms of reference, as well as the corresponding time frames, in accordance with the template set out in annex 3 to document HTW 4/3, for the revision of the Model Course 1.27 on Operational Use of Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS), with a view to validation by HTW 13. 4. Drafting group on model courses. The terms of reference of this group were: 5. Consider documents HTW 11/3/1 and Add.1, HTW 11/3/2 and Add.1, and HTW 11/3/3 and Add.1, including the corresponding draft model courses and their alignment with the scope of the related provisions in the STCW Code and relevant instruments, and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly with a view to validating these draft model courses at this session. 6. Prepare draft terms of reference, as well as the corresponding time frames, in accordance with the template set out in annex 3 to document HTW 4/3, for the revision of the following model courses:    1. 7.05 on Skipper on a Fishing Vessel.    2. 7.07 on Chief Engineer Officer and Second Engineer Officer on a Fishing Vessel.   with a view to validation by HTW 13.   * 1. 7.06 on Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch on a Fishing Vessel.   2. 1.33 on Safety of Fishing Operations (Support Level)   with a view to validation by HTW 14. |
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| ATTACHMENTS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: |