

Training and competency of masters and navigating officers and their certification

This information is geared towards operators of seagoing vessels, seafarers, Port State Control officers and training institutions.

It clarifies which certification of ECDIS competency for masters and navigating officers is necessary on ships with ECDIS equipment.

State of affairs

During the period 1st July 2012 to 1st July 2018, **ECDIS equipment** will become gradually mandatory for certain seagoing vessels (Chapter V Regulation 19 No. 2.10 of the Annex to the SOLAS Convention).

The 2010 Manila Amendments relating to the STCW Convention entered into force internationally on 01.01.2012. They contain binding **minimum ECDIS standards** with regard to the training and advanced training of masters and navigating officers as well as certification of the corresponding competence.

Basic Training

Basic training conveying basic competency has been introduced as mandatory for masters and navigating officers (Chapter II of the Annex to the STCW Convention).

Type-Specific Familiarization

Companies are also obliged to brief all masters and ships' officers who serve on ships with ECDIS equipment on the ship-specific ECDIS in an appropriate manner (Regulation I/14 of the Annex to the STCW Convention).

Basic Training

Acquiring Competency

Masters and ships' officers can fulfil the ECDIS basic training standards in the following ways:

Within the framework of a training school

Masters and ships' officers who obtained a German certificate of competency as navigational watchkeeping officers for the first time after 01.01.2006 (in accordance with Regulation II/1 of the Annex to the STCW Convention) meet the binding, minimum ECDIS standards in principle. Participation in an authorised ECDIS training course is therefore no longer necessary.

With an approved ECDIS training course

If a German certificate of competency for navigational watchkeeping officers was obtained before 01.01.2006, masters and ships' officers may obtain their ECDIS competency by participating in a training course authorised by the BSH. The training course providers will issue certificates of attendance. These must be submitted to the BSH when the validity periods of the certificates of competency are being renewed. All training courses authorised by the BSH can be found on the website www.deutsche-flagge.de > Ausbildung und Befähigung > Zugelassene Lehrgänge > ECDIS/ARPA.

With a comparable training course

Basic ECDIS training, based on the model IMO course (1.27) and authorised by a competent body of an EEA state, also meets these requirements.

Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)

Certificates of competency

If masters and ships' officers can prove their ECDIS competency in one of the above ways, the nautical certificate of competency which has been applied for, will be issued with no restrictions regarding ECDIS.

A restriction regarding ECDIS is added to the certificate of competency if no ECDIS competency can be proved (Regulations II/1, II/2 and II/3 of the Annex to the STCW Convention).

Type-Specific ECDIS Familiarization

In addition to the basic ECDIS training (Chapter II of the Annex to the STCW Convention), companies must always ensure that all masters and ships' officers serving on ships with ECDIS equipment are given an appropriate, ship-specific ECDIS briefing (Regulation I/14 of the Annex to the STCW Convention in conjunction with Sections 6.3 of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code).

ECDIS manufacturers are asked to provide suitable resources, for example typespecific documentation provided on a CD or DVD.

The briefing complements the necessary basic training and should be documented appropriately.

For more information (e.g. concerning training course approval), contact:

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