INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS
(STCW), 1978, AS AMENDED

Advice for port State control officers, recognized organizations and recognized
security organizations clarifying training and certification requirements for ship
security officers and seafarers with designated security duties

1. The Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping, at its first
session (17 to 21 February 2014), noted with concern that officers who have completed
training as ship security officer (SSO) meeting the competence requirements of
section A-VI/5 are reportedly being required to provide evidence of having attended training
in competency for security awareness and training for seafarers with designated security
duties and obtain the associated certificates. Also, seafarers holding certificates for seafarers
with designated security duties are reportedly being required to provide evidence of having
training in security awareness.

2. The Sub-Committee noted that, in addition to security-related familiarization, the
security-related training according to the STCW Convention and Code, leading to
certification, consists of three levels of training: security-awareness training, training for
seafarers with designated security duties and training for the SSO, with the training for SSO
being the highest level. The Sub-Committee recognized that the training requirements for the
three levels of security-related training were drafted so that the higher levels of training would
include the competencies of the lower levels of training.

3. The Sub-Committee agreed that SSO training encompasses the competence
requirements of section A-VI/6, and therefore, holders of SSO certificates should not be
required to undergo further training and obtain certification under section A-VI/6 related to
competency for security awareness and training for seafarers with designated security
duties.

4. The Sub-Committee further agreed that training for seafarers with designated
security duties encompasses the competence requirements of section A-VI/6, paragraph 6,
and therefore, holders of certificates for seafarers with designated security duties according
to regulation VI/6, paragraph 5, should not be required to undergo further training and obtain
certification related to competency for security awareness.

5. Member Governments are invited to be guided accordingly and to bring the contents
of this circular to the attention of all concerned, especially port State control officers,
recognized organizations and recognized security organizations.