



# Dienststelle Schiffssicherheit BG Verkehr

ISM-Circular No.: 06/2011

**Subject:** Amendments to STCW (Regulations VI/1, VI/2 and VI/3)

**Rule reference:**

- ISM Code 1.2.3, 6.2 and 6.5
- STCW 2010 Manila Amendments

**Remark:** This circular needs not be carried on board of ships.

**Date:** 12.12.2011

This circular informs about the amendments to STCW Regulations VI/1, VI/2 and VI/3.

## New Regulations

The STCW- Convention (mandatory rules, mandatory STCW- Code Part A and recommended STCW- Code Part B) was amended. The amendments, adopted by the Conference of Parties in Manila in 2010, will enter into force on **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**, including a transition period until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.

The following STCW-Certificates according to Chapter VI issued in Germany only remain valid if at least the required standards are maintained by completing a refresher course every five years.

Old Name	New Name	STCW Regulation
Safety familiarization, basic training and instruction	Certificate of Proficiency - Basic training	Regulation VI/1
Proficiency in survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats	Certificate of Proficiency - survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats	Regulation VI/2
Advanced fire fighting	Certificate of Proficiency - Advanced fire fighting	Regulation VI/3

For holders of existing STCW-Certificates there will be a transition period of five years, during this period the certificates remain valid. On December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 latest those holders will have to prove that they have completed a refresher course.

The proof about the initial qualification will still be effected by issuance of a Certificate of Proficiency according to the Regulations VI/1, VI/2 and VI/3 or on presentation of a Certificate of Competency for a Master or an Officer.

For holders of Certificate of Competency for a Master or an Officer the proof will be effected by presentation of these certificates. The proof about the refresher course will be verified at the extension of the validity of these certificates.

The proof about the refresher course, necessary for all other seafarers, will be effected by presentation of a documentary evidence for the participation at an authorized refresher course.

## **Refresher courses**

Starting 2012, refresher courses will have to be completed every five years. Only with these refresher courses the existing STCW- qualification certificates will remain valid. The refresher courses can be completed in all educational institutions providing authorized refresher courses. In Germany these will probably be those educational institutions already providing the STCW- courses of the Regulations VI/1, VI/2 and VI/3 (for initial qualification).

The refresher course for Basic Training according Regulation VI/1 will last 3 days. It can be shortened to 2 days if at least 12 months sea service within the last 5 years can be substantiated. Regardless of the rank on board the sea service times are recognized if they were served on SOLAS-ships, because on these ships the relevant safety drills are mandatory.

The refresher courses for the proficiency in survival craft, rescue boats and fast rescue boats according to Regulation VI/2 and the advanced fire fighting course according to Regulation VI/3 will last one day each.

### **IMPORTANT!!!**

**In order to avoid an overloading of the educational institutions in the year 2016 and in order to enable every seafarer to pursue his/her profession beyond 2016, the refresher courses should be attended as soon as the courses are offered and the oldest certificate (regularly the safety familiarisation) is older than five years.**

## **Other matters**

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 the old German Certificates of Proficiency in Survival Craft (Rettungsbootsmann) and in Fire-fighting (Feuerschutzmann) **will no longer be rewritten into official qualification certificates (for initial qualification)!**

## **Responsibilities**

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) only will be responsible for the application and issuance of the official STCW- qualification certificates according to Chapter VI of the STCW- Convention.

The authorisation of the courses for the initial qualification and the refresher courses remains with the Ship Safety Division of the BG Verkehr.

Further information about the Manila- Amendments and contact persons can be found on the website of the BSH:

[http://www.bsh.de/en/Maritime\\_shipping/Commercial\\_shipping/Certificates\\_for\\_mariners/index.jsp](http://www.bsh.de/en/Maritime_shipping/Commercial_shipping/Certificates_for_mariners/index.jsp)

### **Action required:**

Ship managers are requested to take note of this circular, to take action and to inform their crew members accordingly.

Copies of the ISM Circular can be found on our website:

<http://www.bg-verkehr.de/service/downloads/ship-safety-division/ism/overview-ism-circulars-and-ism-info-mails>

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