

**PORTS and MARITIME AFFAIRS**EMAIL : [Ship\\_registry@mtt.gov.bh](mailto:Ship_registry@mtt.gov.bh) WEBSITE: <http://www.mtt.gov.bh>**Directive No. STCW/22****TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SEAFARERS SAILING ON SHIPS IN POLAR WATERS SUBJECT TO THE (POLAR CODE)**

Issued under the enabling power of the Ministerial Resolution 6/2001

And including the Amendments of STCW Convention

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 Effective 01 July 2018, The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW) require personnel on board ships subject to the International Code for ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) to have appropriate training and certification.
- 1.2 This Directive outlines the training, instruction and certification requirements for Masters' and Deck Officers serving on board Bahraini registered ships that are subject to the Polar Code.
- 1.3 The Directive should be read in conjunction with any other Directives issued relating to training and certification of seafarers.

**2. Definitions**

- 2.1 **The Polar Code** means the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters, as defined in SOLAS 74 Regulation XIV/1.1.
- 2.2 **Polar Waters** means Arctic waters and/or the Antarctic area, as defined in SOLAS 74 Regulations XIV/1.2 to XIV/1.4

**3. General**

The IMO Resolutions MSC.416 (97) and MSC.417 (97) have adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 related amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), and STCW Code to include new mandatory minimum requirements to insure the competency of masters and officers on



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Bahraini flagged ships operating in polar waters subject to the polar code. These amendments are effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 in line with SOLAS new chapter XIV related to the Polar Code.

The Ports and Maritime Affairs (PMA) require all applicable seafarers serving on board ships entitled to fly the Bahraini flag subject to the Polar Code to have a valid Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) reflecting appropriate training to their assigned shipboard duties in accordance with the STCW Convention.

Polar Waters training for either Basic Training or Advanced Training should satisfy the minimum specific standard of competences as per STCW Code A-V/4. Upon successful completion of the relevant approved training, a Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) for either Advanced or Basic Training to serve onboard Bahraini flagged ships that operate in polar waters shall be issued. The PMA will accept a CoP issued by a STCW party or an entity approved by a STCW party.

#### 4. Application

This directive applies to:

- i. All Bahraini ships to which the Polar Code is applicable;
- ii. All persons serving or intending to serve on board Bahraini ships to which the Polar Code is applicable in a capacity for which additional training is required;
- iii. Companies employing, recruiting or selecting the seafarers noted above for service on board Bahraini ships to which the Polar Code is applicable.

#### 5. Basic Training for Ships Operating in Polar Waters

5.1 Every candidate for certification in basic training for Bahraini flagged ships operating in polar waters shall be required to:

5.1.1 Demonstrate the competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of Table A-V/4-1; and

5.2 Provide evidence of having achieved:

5.2.1 The minimum knowledge, understanding and proficiency listed in column 2 of Table A-V/4-1; and



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5.1.2 The required standard of competence in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in columns 3 & 4 of Table A-V/4-1 of the STCW Code

### 6. Advanced Training for Ships Operating in Polar Waters

6.1 Every candidate for certification in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters shall be required to:

6.1.1 Demonstrate the competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-V/4-2; and

6.2 Provide evidence of having achieved:

6.2.1 The minimum knowledge, understanding and proficiency listed in column 2 of table A-V/4-2; and

6.2.2 The required standard of competence in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in column 2 and 4 of table A-V/4-2.

### 7. Special training requirements for personnel on ships operating in polar waters:

In accordance with Regulation V/4 of the STCW, the mandatory minimum requirements for the training and qualifications of masters and deck officers on ships operating in polar water:

7.1 Masters, chief mates and OICNWs on Bahraini flagged ships operating in polar waters shall hold a certificate in basic training for ships operating in polar waters, as required by the polar code.

7.2 Every candidate for a certificate in basic training for ships operating in polar waters shall have completed an approved basic training for ships operating in

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polar waters and meet the standard of competence specified in Section A-V/4, paragraph 1 of the STCW Code.

7.3 Masters, chief mates on board Bahraini flagged ships operating in polar waters, shall hold a certificate in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters, as required by the polar code.

7.4 Every candidate for a certificate in advanced training for Bahraini flagged ships operating in polar waters shall:

- i. Meet the requirements for certification in basic training for ships in polar waters;
- ii. Have at least two (2) months of approved seagoing service in the deck department, at management level or while performing watchkeeping duties at the operational level, within polar waters or other equivalent approved seagoing service; and
- iii. Have completed approved advanced training for ships operating in polar waters and meet the standard of competence specified in section A-V/4, paragraph 2 of the STCW Code.

**8 Flag State Endorsements**

Masters, Chief Mates, and OICNWs on board Bahraini flagged ships who have been evaluated as qualified shall receive a notation on their FSE Certificate issued by this Administration that qualifies them for Polar Water service. A separate certificate will not be issued.

**9 Revision History**

Revision No.1 of the present directive is the first version.

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28<sup>th</sup> November 2019