



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
37th session
Agenda item 12

STW 37/12
25 October 2005
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REVALIDATION OF GMDSS OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE

Submitted by the International Shipping Federation (ISF)

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: ISF believes that no change is needed with regard to GMDSS certificate revalidation. ISF believes that ongoing training through normal use and drills on board is the best way to ensure competency is maintained.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 6

Related documents: STW 36/17 and STW 33/17

1 At its thirty-sixth session (10 to 14 January 2005), the Sub-Committee agreed to consider the issue of revalidation of GMDSS operator's certificate at STW 37.

2 ISF believes, however, that there is no need to take any further action on the issue of GMDSS certificates as this issue was discussed at STW 33 and it was agreed that changes to the STW Convention were unnecessary.

3 STW 33 also agreed that administrations were free to introduce additional mandatory training on a national basis if they wished, as STCW regulation I/11 and section A-I/11 of the STCW Code allowed the option of such requirements in order to maintain continued professional competence. It was therefore not necessary to change the STCW Convention to establish a new mandatory standard for certificate renewals. ISF agrees with the conclusions reached at STW 33.

4 ISF notes that the ISM Code requires shipowners to ensure that all seafarers are kept trained to the appropriate standard.

5 ISF believes that the most effective way to ensure the maintenance of competent GMDSS operation is not through the adoption of mandatory refresher training. ISF believes rather that ongoing training through normal use and drills on board is the best way to ensure competency is maintained.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the above views and take action as deemed appropriate.