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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
33rd session
Agenda item 5

STW 33/5/6
30 November 2001
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO THE 1995 STCW CONFERENCE

Maritime GOC & ROC certificates

How to maintain GMDSS competence

Submitted by the Russian Federation

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments on document STW 33/5/3 submitted by Norway

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: STW 33/5/3

1 The Maritime Administration of the Russian Federation has analysed competence and skills of GMDSS certificate holders 5 years after certification in order to identify an optimal way of competence assessment.

2 The results of the analysis have shown that skills of GMDSS personnel in use of the Radio Regulations procedures for distress and safety purposes can be partially lost within 5 years after certification.

3 To minimize negative results caused by partial loss of skills endorsement of GMDSS certificates in the Russian Federation is provided only after successfully completing an approved course and passing an approved examination.

4 GMDSS upgrading programme in the Russian Federation is in accordance with A-I/11.2 of STCW Code, and this includes amendments in the relevant international and national regulations as regards safety of life at sea, drills in use of Radio Regulations distress and safety procedures as well as development of radio communication skills for all methods of communication during search and rescue operations, the drills being performed on simulators and live equipment. The durations of such training for the Restricted Operator's Certificate is 20 hours, for the General Operator's Certificate - 33 hours, and for 1st and 2nd class Radioelectronic Certificates – 48 hours.

5 For updating practical skills in use of GMDSS equipment and Radio Regulations procedures minimizing human error, the Russian Federation considers it practicable to offer an approved training course and examination every 5 years after issuing the certificate to provide

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evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence. For this purpose it felt that the text of Section A-IV/2.4 of the STCW Code should be amended as follows:

*"4 Every candidate shall provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence, **and every holder of a certificate shall provide evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five years through:***

- .1 demonstration of competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-IV/2-1, in accordance with the methods for demonstrating competence and the criteria for evaluating competence tabulated in columns 3 and 4 of that table; and*
- .2 examination or continuous assessment as part of an approved training programme covering the material set out in column A-IV/2-1"*

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above information and decide as appropriate.
