



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
35th session
Agenda item 4

STW 35/4/1
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WATCHKEEPING AT ANCHOR

Submitted by Denmark

SUMMARY

- Executive summary:*** This document proposes that the advice provided by NAV 49 is included in the STCW Code, Part A and requests the Sub-Committee to provide guidance on the qualifications that would be necessary for the experienced seafarer to take over anchor watch in other than unsafe conditions
- Action to be taken:*** Paragraphs 11 and 12
- Related documents:*** STW 34/4/4, STW 34/4/6, STW 34/4/8, NAV 49/19, annex 19

1 The Sub-Committee, at its thirty-third session, invited members to submit comments and proposals to STW 34 on the subject of inconsistencies with respect to watchkeeping requirements at anchor.

2 Denmark submitted a note (STW 34/4/4) proposing that the Master should still be able to decide whether or not to keep a continuous navigational watch while at anchor.

3 Australia noted (STW 34/4/8) that an anomaly exists within the STCW Code, which at the Master's discretion permits a vessel to be at anchor in an open roadstead or other virtually at sea condition without a continuous navigational watch being maintained.

4 OCIMF, IFSMA and SIGTTO considered (STW 34/4/6) that there were some inconsistencies with respect to watchkeeping requirements at anchor within the STCW Code. They highlighted safety and security concerns from the discretion given to the master and invited the Sub-Committee to consider clarification of the issue and possible amendments of the Code to redress this.

5 The STW 34 agreed to invite the NAV Sub-Committee to provide advice on the conditions and circumstances upon which a decision may be made to maintain a continuous navigational watch at anchor in order to enable the development of appropriate guidance to masters.

6 MSC 77 instructed the NAV Sub-Committee to provide the advice requested by STW 34.

7 The NAV Sub-Committee, at its forty-ninth session, considered the request of STW 34 to provide advice on conditions and circumstances upon which a decision may be taken to maintain a continuous watch at anchor.

8 In its report to MSC (NAV 49/19, annex 19) NAV 49 noted that the master of every ship is bound to ensure that watchkeeping arrangements are adequate for maintaining a safe watch at anchor at any time.

9 For the officer in charge of a navigational watch this implies, as also noted by NAV 49, that he should keep a safe navigational watch at an unsheltered anchorage, at an open roadstead or any other virtually "at sea" conditions and unsafe situations in accordance with Chapter VIII, Section A-VIII/2, part 3-1, paragraph 51, of the STCW Code.

10 NAV 49 further noted, that in other than unsafe conditions, the master commensurate with maintaining the ship's safety and security and the protection of the marine environment may, at his own discretion, entrust to an experienced crewmember the watchkeeping at anchor taking into account the circumstances, conditions and obligations, situations and procedures, such as:

- .1 a continuous state of vigilance by sight and hearing as well as by all other available means;
- .2 ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications;
- .3 prevailing weather, sea, ice and current conditions;
- .4 the need to continuously monitor the ship's position;
- .5 nature, size and characteristics of anchorage;
- .6 traffic conditions;
- .7 situations which might affect the security of the ship;
- .8 loading and discharging operations;
- .9 designation of stand-by crewmember; and
- .10 procedure to alert the master and maintain engine readiness.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

11 The Sub-Committee is invited to include the content of the note from NAV 49 to the Sub-Committee on the keeping of a safe anchor watch (NAV 49/19, annex 19) in Chapter VIII, Section A-VIII/2, part 3-1, paragraph 51, of the STCW Code.

12 The Sub-Committee is also invited to provide guidance on the qualifications that would be necessary for the experienced seafarer to take over anchor watch in other than unsafe conditions.