



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

STW 35/4
10 September 2003
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WATCHKEEPING AT ANCHOR

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides the advice received from NAV 49

Action to be taken: Paragraph 4

Related documents: MSC 77/26, STW 34/14 and NAV 49/19, annex 19

1 The Sub-Committee, at its thirty-fourth session, decided that the factors to be taken into account when establishing watchkeeping arrangements was an operational issue. The Sub-Committee therefore 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 to enable the Sub-Committee to develop appropriate guidance to masters (STW 34/14, paragraph 4.38) and invited the Committee to instruct NAV Sub-Committee accordingly.

2 The Committee instructed the NAV Sub-Committee to provide the advice requested by the Sub-Committee (MSC 77/26, paragraph 12.5).

3 The NAV Sub-Committee at its forty-ninth session (30 June to 4 July 2003), considered the issue and provided the advice requested by the Sub-Committee given at annex.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

4 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.

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ANNEX**NOTE FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING****Keeping of a safe anchor watch**

1 The master of every ship is bound to ensure that watchkeeping arrangements are adequate for maintaining a safe watch at anchor at any time.

2 An officer in charge of the navigational watch 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.

3 Other than in 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 crew member 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 communication;
- .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 crew members; and
- .10 procedure to alert the master and maintain engine readiness.