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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
35th session
Agenda item 9

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MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY

Shipboard AIS Training

Submitted by the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: With all ships under SOLAS requiring to be fitted with AIS by July 2004 urgent attention is needed to address the training requirements for the operation of this equipment.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: STW 34/9/4

1 Resolution A.917(22) gives guidelines for the onboard operational use of shipboard Automatic Identification Systems and in paragraph 2 states that the user should become familiar with the operation of the equipment, including the correct interpretation of the displayed data.

2 The United Kingdom further raised this issue at STW 34 through document STW 34/9/4. Since STW 34 no further development of AIS training appears to have materialised, mainly due to the fact that the performance standards have not been finalised. The NAV Sub-committee should be invited to develop the performance standards on an urgent basis to enable this sub-committee to develop the required training module.

3 Whilst AIS is being implemented to meet security demands, there is no doubt that with proper training the use of AIS will enhance safe navigation.

4 There is an operational requirement for Automatic Identification Systems to be operational in 2004, the operational training will not be available at this time and this will mean that many of the operational benefits derived from AIS will not be understood by the users.

5 The requirements to have proper standardised training requirements for operators of AIS is therefore needing urgent consideration.

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6 In our opinion it would not be necessary to amend the STCW Convention as the reference to this equipment already exists within the Convention. The training module relating to AIS could be introduced by developing a Model Course in a similar manner to ECDIS.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the above and take any action that it deems appropriate.
