



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
36th session
Agenda item 12

STW 36/12
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DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCE FOR RATINGS

Outcome of ILO Preparatory Technical Conference

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on the outcome of the ILO Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference related to the development of competence for ratings

Action to be taken: Paragraph 10

Related documents: STW 35/19 and MSC 78/26

1 The Sub-Committee at its thirty-fifth session (26 to 30 January 2004) deferred consideration of preliminary proposals for the development of competence for ratings until the outcome of the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference of ILO would be made available. STW 35 instructed the Secretariat to report the outcome of the Conference to STW 36.

2 The Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-eighth session (12 to 21 May 2004) noted that the Sub-Committee had deferred consideration of preliminary proposals for the development of competence for ratings until the outcome of the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference of ILO would become available.

3 MSC 78, in considering the advice of the Sub-Committee that competence for ratings could be included within the STCW Convention, and the request to instruct the Secretariat to convey this view to ILO for their consideration and comments; recognized that currently there were no international standards for the competence for ratings other than for able-bodied seaman.

4 MSC 78 agreed that IMO was the appropriate body to deal with standards related to the competence for ratings, excluding the ship's cook, and instructed the Secretariat to convey this decision to ILO.

5 MSC 78 further noted that MSC 79, on receipt of the outcome of the respective Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference and confirmation from ILO, would be in a position to instruct STW 36 to consider the issue and the possible implications arising from the standards for training related to ratings being regulated by the Organization; and to suggest the best way forward.

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6 As instructed by the Committee, the Secretariat attended the meeting from 14 to 17 September 2004 and participated in the proceedings of the relevant Tripartite Technical Committee of the Conference.

7 The Technical Committee reviewed the communication from the Organization regarding competence for ratings, and, noting the exclusion of the ships' cook from the transfer, agreed to recommend the following regarding the transfer of responsibility for training to IMO:

- .1 the development of training requirements for seafarers, excluding the ship's cook, is relevant to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), particularly with regard to the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended;
- .2 the principles of the ILO Convention on Certification of Able Seamen, 1946 (No. 74) should be transferred to IMO;
- .3 training and qualification requirements for ratings should be transferred to IMO for inclusion into the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended; and
- .4 in light of the use of the term 'Able Seaman' in various ILO instruments, it would be appropriate that the IMO makes the relevant reference/definition to this term when developing appropriate training requirements for ratings.

8 It also recommended that the following issues be considered by IMO when developing training and qualification requirements for ratings for inclusion into the STCW Convention:

- .1 training requirements that would ensure that the rating has reached the level of competence to perform his/her duties and responsibilities required of his/her position on board ship;
- .2 assessment to ensure that the training imparted ensures that the rating has reached the desired level of competence; and
- .3 certification or other documentary evidence by the relevant competent authority indicating that the rating has been trained assessed and found competent to perform the duties and responsibilities related to his/her position on board ship.

9 The Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference Committee noted the importance of ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place while the relevant requirements are developed by IMO and adopted a recommendation, requesting that the International Labour Office examine the legal situation regarding the Certification of Able Seamen Convention, 1946 (No. 74) during this transition.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

10 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the above information and decide as appropriate.