



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
37th session
Agenda item 17

STW 37/INF.2
14 November 2005
ENGLISH ONLY

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LNG Shipping Competency Standards

Submitted by SIGTTO

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on standards of training and certification developed by SIGTTO for seafarers serving on board LNG tankers

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: None

1 The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) shipping industry has an exceptional safety record. This is a record the industry can be very proud of.

2 LNG shipping, at the beginning of the 21st century, is experiencing a period of expansion and change unlike anything the industry has seen in the past. This expansion is to be welcomed, however, it will also bring with it many issues and challenges to which the industry will have to respond or pre-empt in order to maintain its excellent safety record and ensure that the public has confidence in the transportation of LNG by sea.

3 One of the biggest issues will be in respect of how to ensure that shortages of seagoing personnel, with experience of LNG ships, do not affect the ability to effectively man the expanding LNG fleet. In this respect, at present there is an absence of industry accepted operational training standards specifically for officers serving on LNG vessels. Therefore, with a view to maintaining the quality of such officers, SIGTTO developed these LNG Operational Standards for officers with the intention of their being adopted as the industry's default best practice standard. The standards are not considered to be incapable of improvement and SIGTTO encourages individual operators to consider any additional or more appropriate standards that may be suitable, to their specific operations, ships or trades.

4 The project commenced in early 2005 with the first of a series of working groups utilising the experience within the SIGTTO membership. The standards were approved by the SIGTTO board in November 2005. These standards have been written using the "competence based methodology" which is used in STCW and widely throughout industry in general.

5 SIGTTO offers these standards developed as guidance to the industry and, as such, their adoption and implementation cannot be, and is not, mandatory. However, the standards are produced after consultation within the industry and are intended to represent the default best practice operational training standard for officers serving onboard LNG vessels.

6 A copy of the standards developed by SIGTTO will be made available at the meeting.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

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