



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
38th session
Agenda item 9

STW 38/9/3
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DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCES FOR RATINGS

Submitted by Denmark and the Netherlands

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	In accordance with paragraph 8 of the summary of major comments in annex 1 of the report from the Correspondence Working Group on development of competences for ratings (document STW 38/9) regarding the need for a flexible system regarding sea service and education and training this document proposes a way forward that should be taken into consideration by STW 38
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 12
<i>Related documents:</i>	STW 38/1, STW 38/9 and MSC/Circ.1099 – MEPC/Circ.405

Development of competences for ratings – flexibility in sea service, education and training

Background

1 The present submission comments on document STW 38/9 in accordance with paragraph 46.5 of MSC/Circ.1099 – MEPC/Circ.405.

2 In paragraph 8 of the summary of major comments in annex 1 of the report from the Correspondence Working Group on development of competences for ratings (document STW 38/9), it is stated that interested Member States are invited to come forward with detailed proposals for a flexible system regarding sea service and education and training.

3 Such a system could be based upon vocational education and training followed by an appropriate STCW Course and adapted sea service. This should be seen as a supplement for the proposed new regulations II/5 and III/5.

4 This submission therefore seeks to clarify the need for such a flexible system and proposes a way forward that should be taken into consideration by STW 38.

The need for a flexible system

5 If the only way to obtain an AB or AB (motorman) certificate is training based upon and directly aimed towards the KUPs proposed in column 2 in annex 2 of document STW 38/9, taking into consideration that seafaring in general may still be called a 'youth' profession – it will strongly limit the recruitment of youngsters that are considering whether to choose a seafaring career. The problem is that they will have to make a choice on a seafaring career at a very early

age with a dedicated lengthy study attached to it, too soon. Therefore youngsters should be allowed to start and finalize STCW related shoreside education and training and when during this process they eventually get interested in a seafaring career they can sign on in order to obtain sea service and thereby qualify as AB or AB(motorman). Such a path can be a cradle or an extra breeding ground for future ratings and officers.

6 This approach is also relevant when looking at experienced persons having gone through shoreside vocational education and training and having obtained a certificate of apprenticeship as mechanic, machine fitter or comparable. This group is also relevant when trying to strengthen the recruitment of ratings and officers. Therefore, it would also be appropriate for persons from this group showing interest in a seafaring career to go through targeted and moduled STCW-related maritime education and training ashore before signing on.

7 Furthermore, for the group of experienced persons with vocational education and training and an appropriate certificate of apprenticeship, it will be relevant to consider a reduction of seagoing service due to their particular prior qualifications and experience.

8 Due to the issues raised above there is a need to consider how to include or build flexibility in the future regulations in the STCW Convention about competences for ratings.

9 This could be done by including paragraphs in the proposed new regulations II/5 and III/5 allowing that all the necessary STCW-related education and training can be finalized ashore before signing on. Additionally it should be included that the seagoing service may be reduced for ratings who have obtained an appropriate certificate of apprenticeship prior to commencing STCW-related education and training.

10 Regardless of paragraph 8, ratings should of course under all circumstances still comply with regulation II/4 as regards the mandatory minimum requirements for certification of ratings forming part of a navigational watch.

11 Based on the arguments given above, it is suggested that Working Group 2 on Development of Competences for Ratings at STW 38 as part of its Terms of Reference should consider the following topics to ensure the necessary flexibility in education and training of ratings:

- a. The Working Group should draft a proposal for a paragraph clarifying that the entire STCW-related education and training could be completed before signing on.
- b. The Working Group should draft a proposal for a paragraph allowing that the seagoing service can be reduced for ratings who have obtained an appropriate certificate of apprenticeship prior to commencing STCW-related education and training as a supplement to the model proposed in document STW 38/9.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

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