



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
39th session
Agenda item 7

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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STCW CONVENTION AND THE STCW CODE

Review of STCW regulation I/3

Submitted by India

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document responds to the invitation by STW 38 to review STCW regulation I/3 relating to the principles governing near-coastal voyages

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related document: STW 38/17

Background

1 STW 38 endorsed the list of areas in the STCW Convention and the STCW Code identified for the comprehensive review (STW 38/17, paragraph 12.156 and annex 11), and invited the Committee to approve it and instruct the Sub-Committee to undertake the proposed review accordingly in a systematic and organized manner.

2 STW 38 had agreed that the principles governing near-coastal voyages prescribed in STCW regulation I/3 should be reviewed. Accordingly, India has reviewed this regulation and proposes amendments to this regulation, STCW Code Part A, and STCW Part B as set out in annexes 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Consideration

3 Existing regulation I/3 (NCV) was intended to be used by a Party for defined NCV area of the party where seafarers with appropriate NCV Certificates could be engaged on such voyages.

4 It is proposed that new Regulation I/3 should be intended for NCV certificates of a party to be used in defined NCV limits of another party.

5 Section B-I/3, paragraph 2 tends to give an impression that the concession to operate in near coastal voyage limits is being granted to the ship. This should actually be suitably modified to specify that the concession is for the qualification of the seafarers concerned engaged on defined near coastal voyages and not the ship *per se*. The ship in itself is capable of making world wide voyages, by replacing the NCV seafarers with Unlimited Certificates of Competency.

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Action requested of the Sub-Committee

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

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED TEXT OF STCW REGULATION I/3

Regulation I/3

Principles governing near-coastal voyages

- 1 Every Party shall define its 'near coastal voyages limits' in accordance with the provisions of section A-I/3
- 2 Party in defining its 'near-coastal voyages limits' for the purpose of the Convention shall not impose training, experience or certification requirements on the seafarers serving on board the ships entitled to fly the flag of another Party and engaged on such voyages in a manner resulting in more stringent requirements for such seafarers than for seafarers serving on board ships entitled to fly its own flag. In no case shall any such Party impose requirements in respect of seafarers serving on board ships entitled to fly the flag of another Party in excess of those of the Convention in respect of ships not engaged on near-coastal voyages.
- 3 The certificates of seafarers issued by a party for its defined near coastal voyage limits may be accepted by other parties for service in their defined near coastal voyage limits, provided the parties concerned enter into an agreement specifying the details of involved trading areas and other relevant conditions thereof.
- 4 With respect to ships entitled to fly the flag of a Party regularly engaged on near-coastal voyages off the coast of another Party, the Party whose flag the ship is entitled to fly shall prescribe training, experience and certification requirements for seafarers serving on such ships at least equal to those of the Party off whose coast the ship is engaged, provided that they do not exceed the requirements of the Convention in respect of ships not engaged on near-coastal voyages. Seafarers serving on a ship which extends its voyage beyond what is defined as a near-coastal voyage by a Party and enters waters not covered by that definition shall fulfil the appropriate competency requirements of the Convention.
- 5 A Party may afford a ship which is entitled to fly its flag the benefits of the near-coastal voyage provisions of the Convention when it is regularly engaged off the coast of a non-Party on near-coastal voyages as defined by the Party.
- 6 Parties shall communicate details of 'near coastal voyage limits' as early as practical to the Secretary-General, in conformity with the requirements of regulation I/7, the details of the provisions adopted.
- 7 The Secretary-General shall circulate details of 'near coastal voyage limits' communicated by Parties to all Parties.
- 8 Littoral coastal States may adopt regional 'near coastal voyage limits' through bi-lateral or multi-lateral arrangements. Details of such arrangements shall be reported to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate such particulars to all Parties,
- 9 Nothing in this regulation shall, in any way, limit the jurisdiction of any State, whether or not a Party to the Convention.

ANNEX 2

PROPOSED NEW TEXT OF SECTION A-I/3

Section A-I/3

Principles governing near-coastal voyages

1 When as provided in Regulation I/3, paragraph 1, a Party defines near-coastal voyages, *inter alia*, for the purposes of applying variations to the subjects listed in column 2 of the standard of competence tables contained in chapters II and III of part A of the Code, for the issue of certificates valid for service in ships entitled to fly the flag of that Party and engaged on such voyages, account should be taken of the following factors, bearing in mind the effect on the safety of all ships and on the marine environment.

.1 the type of ship and the trade in which it is engaged;

.2 the gross tonnage of the ship and the power in kW of the main propulsion machinery;

.3 the nature and length of the voyages;

.4 the maximum distance from a port of refuge;

.5 the adequacy of the coverage and accuracy of navigational position-fixing devices;

.6 the weather conditions normally prevailing in the near-coastal voyage area; and

.7 the provision of shipboard and coastal communication facilities for search and rescue.

2 It is not intended that seafarers with near coastal voyages certificates should be used for world-wide voyages under the excuse that such seafarers are navigating constantly within the limits of defined near coastal voyages of other parties.

ANNEX 3

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION B-I/3

Section B-I/3

Guidance regarding *near-coastal voyages*

Delete the existing text as transferred to A-I/3 (annex 2)
