



IMO

E

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

STW 39/7/24
17 December 2007
Original: ENGLISH

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STCW CONVENTION AND THE STCW CODE

Rest periods for watchkeeping personnel

Submitted by Japan

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document contains a proposal to amend section A-VIII/1 of the STCW code relating to rest periods for watchkeeping personnel for ensuring the harmonization of STCW and Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: STW 38/17, MSC 83/12 and MSC 83/28

1 MSC 81 had endorsed the STW 37 proposal that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code and instructed the Sub-Committee to define, as a first step, the issues to be reviewed and to advise the Committee accordingly, before embarking on the actual work, for the Committee to endorse the scope of the review of the instruments, and the Sub-Committee to undertake, as a second step, the authorized review in a systematic and organized manner.

2 STW 38 endorsed the list of areas in the STCW Convention and the STCW Code identified for the comprehensive review, and invited the Committee to approve it and instruct the Sub-Committee to undertake the proposed review accordingly in a systematic and organized manner (STW 38/17, paragraph 12.156 and annex 11) which was approved by MSC 83 (MSC 83/28, paragraph 12.7).

3 Japan has carried out an analysis of the STCW Convention and STCW Code taking into account STW 38/17, annex 11 and the outcome is as follows:

- .1 chapter VIII of the STCW Convention Annex, and the associated sections of the STCW Code, are a consolidation of material relating to watchkeeping arrangements. The primary focus of the STCW convention is to ensure that an effective watch is maintained on all seagoing ships, by qualified and fit personnel under all circumstances;

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

- .2 in the 1995 amendments, measures were newly introduced for watchkeeping personnel to prevent fatigue. The first regulation in chapter VIII requires each Administration to establish and enforce rest periods for watchkeeping personnel, and to require that watch systems are so arranged that the efficiency of all watchkeeping personnel is not impaired by fatigue and that duties are so organized that the first watch at the commencement of a voyage and subsequent relieving watches are sufficiently rested and otherwise fit for duty. Section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code requires that watchkeeping personnel (i.e., all persons assigned duty as officers in charge of a watch, or as rating forming part of a watch) shall be provided a minimum of 10 hours of rest in any 24-hour period; and
- .3 on the other hand, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006) requires Member States to establish maximum hours of work or minimum hours of rest for seafarers employed in any capacity on board a seagoing ship to which the Convention applies with the aim of preventing fatigue associated with excessive work. However, MLC 2006 requires “77 hours of rest in any 7-day period” which is not described in STCW, in addition to “10 hours of rest in any 24-hour period”.
- 4 Therefore, taking into account the above, Japan proposes that section A-VIII/1 of the STCW Code should be amended as per the annex to ensure harmonization with MLC 2006.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

- 5 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the proposal presented in the annex and decide as appropriate.

ANNEX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION A-VIII OF THE STCW CODE

Section A-VIII/1

Fitness for duty

1 All persons who are assigned duty as officer in charge of a watch or as a rating forming part of a watch shall be provided ~~a minimum of 10 hours of rest in any 24-hour period.~~ with a rest period of not less than;

.1 10 hours in any 24-hour period; and

.2 77 hours in any 7-day period.

2 The hours of rest may be divided into no more than two periods, one of which shall be at least 6 hours in length.

3 The requirements for rest periods laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 need not be maintained in the case of an emergency or drill or in other overriding operational conditions.

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, the minimum period of ten hours may be reduced to not less than 6 consecutive hours provided that any such reduction shall not extend beyond two days and not less than ~~70~~ 77 hours of rest are provided each seven-day period.

5 Administrations shall require that watch schedules be posted where they are easily accessible.

Note:

Deleted text is shown as strikethrough and new text as shaded.
