



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

Proposal on the knowledge and skill requirements for electronic officer

Submitted by China

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments and makes a proposal on the knowledge and skill requirements for electronic officer, which may be considered during the process of the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

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

1 MSC 83 approved the list of areas in the STCW Convention and the STCW Code identified for the comprehensive review, where electronic officer is one of the new definitions to be considered during the review process. China would like to comment and make a proposal on the knowledge and skill requirements for the electronic officer.

2 The terms “electric” and “electronic” have similarities, but the latter mainly deals with the digitized information processed by computer. There are great differences between the terms “electrical equipment” and “electronic device” with respect to the working principle, operation, testing and maintenance, especially on the collection, transmission, storage, analysis and control of digital information. Therefore, electronic officer should possess the knowledge and skills in marine electronic devices and systems such as ECDIS, IBS, GMDSS, digital speed governors, intelligent main engines and INTRANET, etc.

3 Therefore, China believes that it is important to develop competency requirements for the electronic officer, who may be responsible for the testing and maintenance as well as trouble-shooting of all shipboard computer systems and electronic device.

4 An inspection carried out by China Maritime Safety Administrations (China MSA) on the competency of the GMDSS operators and the capability of chief officers on bulk carriers in operating loading electronic device has shown that it is important to improve their capability and competency in computer knowledge and skills.

5 In the implementation of SOLAS regulation XII/11, MSC/Circ.854, and MSC/Circ.891, China conducted advanced training for senior officers in computer knowledge and skills, and obtained some experience in this respect. At the same time, maritime universities and institutions in China are also engaged in the education and training of shipboard computer science and electronic technologies. China is willing to share its experience with other Members in the development of competency requirements for the electronic officer.

6 In light of the above, it is proposed that the electronic officer should be required to possess following knowledge and skills:

- .1 knowledge on computer's hardware and software and operational skills in computer configuration, trouble-shooting, software reinstallation procedure, virus prevention, internet data transmission, operating systems, word processing, calculating software, etc.
- .2 knowledge on the working principle, operation, testing and maintenance of shipboard electronic device, and skills in identifying computer-related problems.

The manning of the electronic officer onboard can be optional for the industry at the initial stage.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above and take action as appropriate.
