Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-2) ARM14 10.1.2.1

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**X** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**□** ENAV **□** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-3) AOB

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 N/A

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Phil Day

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) & associated Code

# Summary

The STCW convention and STCW Code were last amended in 2010 introducing the Manila Amendments. IALA understands that the convention will soon go through further amendment.

## Purpose of the document

This document is to seek ARM national competent authority members feedback on amendments to the STCW Convention and Code in relation to IALA areas of competency.

1. To provide guidance to the IALA Secretariat on amendment proposals regarding Seafarer training
2. To provide guidance to the IALA Secretariat on potential amendment proposals regarding extending the convention to include shore based VTS operator training and certification.
3. To provide guidance to the IALA Secretariat on potential amendment proposals regarding extending the convention to include shore based AtoN Manager and technician training and certification.

## Related documents

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978 as amended

Seafarers Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code as amended.

ARM14 7.3.1

ARM14 7.3.5

ARM14 7.3.5.1

ARM14 7.3.5.2

# Background

Seafarer training

A high level training curriculum for Deck Officers and Ratings is set out in Part A Chapter I of the STCW code in the form of tables A-II/1 A-II/2 and A-/II3. Additional guidance is contained in Part B Chapter II Section B-II/1

Administrations are required to develop and approve training that suitably delivers this curriculum. This despite the standardisation of STCW means there remains room for differences in training.

There is strong anecdotal evidence that Seafarers performance within VTS areas in relation to procedures and communications often does not meet the expectations of the VTS Competent Authority.

The Navigation components of the curriculum only briefly mention physical aids to navigation in relation to being able to fix a position. Other aspects of IALA area of interest in terms of ECDIS, AIS, RADAR etc have clear gaps. There is evidence ( see ARM14 7.3.1) of mariners lack of knowledge in relation to the correct identification and use of AtoN.

VTS operator training & certification

Currently IMO through a number of resolutions and circular letters recognises IALA as the competent body for VTS and supports the IALA recommended training.

Aids to Navigation Manager and technician training

Currently the training of Aton Managers and technicians is purely an IALA matter.

# Discussion

It is not the intention of this paper to reflect all the gaps in the STCW curriculum but to examine the best way for IALA to influence the areas it is competent in. There are a number of ways this could be tackled:

1. Substantial changes are suggested to the curriculum in and support from Administration and other bodies is sought
2. Minor changes to the curriculum are suggested to add reference to IALA recommendations and guidance. IALA develops guidance to Administrations and seafarers on the seafarer training in relation to VTS and AtoN (as per ARM14 7.3.5.1). There is precedent for this as the STCW Code guidance refer to the Radio Regulations which is an ITU publication.

Option 1 is straight forward but needs a complete review of Deck Officer related Navigation/operational training. It also means the curriculum can only be updated at the time of STCW review.

Option 2 means IALA remains in control of the guidance documents and is able to update them in line with technology changes between STCW revisions.

In relation to IALA seeking expansion of STCW to VTS operator staff is largely in the remit of the VTS committee to advise on. However the national members represented at ARM are asked to comment on this suggestion.

In relation to IALA seeking expansion of STCW to cover Aton Managers and technician training the national members represented at ARM are asked to comment on this suggestion.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note this paper
2. Discuss or make submissions on the involvement of IALA in amending STCW and the options presented.
3. Make a recommendation to PAP on the best approaches for IALA to take on this matter.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-3)