



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 135

PASSENGER SHIPS - TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Guidance for Shipowners, Managers and their Manning Agents, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Inspectors, Bahamian Nationals and other Seafarers serving on Bahamian registered ships.

Note: This Bulletin is to be read in conjunction with BMA Information Bulletin Nos. 81, 86, 103, 115, 121, 124, 129, 130

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Bulletin provides guidance relating to training and certification for persons working on passenger ships.
- 1.2 The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended (STCW Convention) and the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code (STCW Code) requires the Master, officers, ratings and appropriate persons, who are assigned to passenger ships including RO-RO passenger ships.
- 1.3 The Bahamas Regulations are being finalized to incorporate the 2010 amendments to the STCW Convention and STCW Code. The BMA will apply the transitional periods in accordance with the provisions of the 2010 amendments
- 1.4 For the purpose of this Bulletin, the following definitions apply:
 - .i *Approved seagoing service* is sea service carried out onboard a ship in the capacity for which that application is being submitted.
 - .ii *Approved training* is training that satisfies the requirements of STCW A/V and has been approved by the Bahamas or a STCW party which The Bahamas has a recognition agreement,

- .iii *Company* is the entity who has accepted responsibility for the assignment of seafarers for service onboard Bahamian registered ships in accordance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/14. The Registered Owner or Manager (in accordance with the ISM Code) shall report the full name and details of such entity (e.g. Manning agents) to the Seafarers and Manning department. This notification, as well as any changes of the entity, shall be made either completing the Manning Section of Bahamas form *R104* or submitting a Letter of Declaration to this effect (The letter shall be on the headed paper of Registered Owner/Manager).
 - .iv The *ISM Company* is the entity, designated under SOLAS Chapter IX/1.2 that assumes the duties and responsibilities imposed by International Safety Management (ISM) Code
 - .v *Passenger spaces* are those spaces which are provided for the accommodation and use of passengers
- 1.5 **There is no requirement for a Bahamas Flag State Endorsement of training and certification for service onboard passenger ships under STCW Chapter V.**
- 1.6 The training and certification required under STCW Chapter V is in addition to any other training required for the assigned shipboard capacity, duties and responsibilities.
- 1.7 Until 01 January 2017, the BMA will accept documentary evidence in accordance with the **1995 STCW** for seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service, an approved education and training programme or an approved training course before 1 July 2013. For applications relating to this acceptance, the applicant shall provide documentary evidence that the seagoing service and/or training had commenced prior to 01 July 2013.

2. Persons to whom this Bulletin Applies

- 2.1 The information in this Bulletin applies to persons serving or intending to serve on Bahamian registered passenger ships in a capacity for which training and/or certification is required in accordance with the STCW Convention.
- 2.2 The Company shall carry out an assessment of assigned shipboard duties and responsibilities for each personnel and ensure that all personnel requiring the relevant training requirement are identified. The Master shall

ensure that all applicable persons either have documentary evidence of the required training or undertake the relevant training prior to be assigned their shipboard duties.

3. Training and certification

3.1 General

Training requiring approval

- 3.1.1.1 All parties should note that The Bahamas accepts approved training that has been carried out by or on behalf of a STCW party which the Bahamas has a recognised STCW Agreement (See *BMA Information Bulletin 121*).
- 3.1.1.2 Managers of Bahamian registered passenger ships may apply for the training required by these requirements to be approved by the Bahamas Maritime Authority in accordance with the guidelines provided in BM Information Bulletin 86. A [list of approved training centers/Companies](#) are available on the BMA website.
- 3.1.1.3 The Company shall ensure that all person(s) requiring approved training have documentary evidence of successful completion of the required training.

Training not requiring approval

- 3.1.2 The Company shall ensure that person(s), who are assigned duties and or tasks that requires training for which approval is not required, hold documentary evidence of successful completion of the training. This training must be undertaken prior to the person undertaking the assigned duties and or tasks and maybe carried out onboard.

Evidence of training

- 3.1.3 All persons who have successfully completed the required training shall have documentary evidence of the required training. The documentary evidence should contain the following information in order to enable an external party to verify that the person is trained in accordance with the applicable requirement:
- Name of issuing body and contact details
 - Document number
 - Name and date of birth of person complying with the requirements

- Title of the training
- STCW number, or numbers, of the Convention regulation(s) or of the STCW Code section under which the seafarer has been found qualified
- Date of issue
- Date of expiry. This should not exceed 5 years from date of issue
- Name and signature of the authorized person who issued the certificate
- If approved, the STCW party who approved the training.

Refresher training

3.1.4 Refresher training is required to be undertaken every five years unless evidence of having achieved the required standard of competence within the previous five years can be provided. The BMA will accept approved sea service in an assigned role or capacity that relates to the tasks/duties as evidence of having achieved the required standards of competence.

3.2 THIS SECTION REFERS TO THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION FOR RO-RO PASSENGER SHIPS

3.2.1 Masters, officers and other personnel designated on muster lists to assist passengers in emergency situations on board ro ro passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of training in Crowd Management as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.1.

3.2.2 Masters, officers and other personnel assigned specific duties and responsibilities on board ro-ro passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of Familiarization training as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.2.

3.2.3 Personnel providing direct service to passengers in passenger spaces on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of Safety training specified in STCW Code A-V/2.3.

3.2.4 Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and any person designated on muster lists of having responsibility for the safety of passengers in emergency situations on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of **approved training** in Crisis Management and Human Behaviour as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.4.

3.2.5 Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and every person assigned immediate responsibility for embarking and disembarking passengers, loading, discharging or securing cargo, or closing hull openings on board ro-ro passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion **approved training** in

Passenger Safety, Cargo Safety and Hull Integrity as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.5.

3.2.6 Documentary evidence issued under these provisions shall be valid until 31 December 2016.

3.3 THIS SECTION REFERS TO THE 1995 AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION FOR PASSENGER SHIPS WHICH ARE NOT RO-RO PASSENGER SHIPS

3.3.1 Masters, officers and other personnel designated on muster lists to assist passengers in emergency situations on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of completion training in Crowd Management as specified in STCW Code A-V/3.1.

3.3.2 Masters, officers and other personnel assigned specific duties and responsibilities on board ro-ro passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion Familiarization training as specified in STCW Code A-V/3.2.

3.3.3 Personnel providing direct service to passengers in passenger spaces on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion Safety training specified in STCW Code A-V/3.3.

3.3.4 Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and every person assigned immediate responsibility for embarking and disembarking passengers on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of completion approved training in Passenger Safety, as specified in STCW Code A-V/3.4.

3.3.5 Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and any person of having responsibility for the safety of passengers in emergency situations on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion approved training in Crisis Management and Human Behaviour as specified in STCW Code A-V/3.5.

3.4 THIS SECTION REFERS TO THE 2010 AMENDMENTS TO THE STCW CONVENTION

3.4.1 Masters, officers and other personnel designated on muster lists to assist passengers in emergency situations on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of training in Crowd Management as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.1.

- 3.4.2 Personnel providing direct service to passengers in passenger spaces on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of Safety training specified in STCW Code A-V/2.2.
- 3.4.3 Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and any person designated on muster lists of having responsibility for the safety of passengers in emergency situations on board passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of approved training in Crisis Management and Human Behaviour as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.3.
- 3.4.4 Masters, chief engineer officers, chief mates, second engineer officers and every person assigned immediate responsibility for embarking and disembarking passengers, loading, discharging or securing cargo, or closing hull openings on board ro-ro passenger ships shall have documentary evidence of successful completion of approved training in Passenger Safety, Cargo Safety and Hull Integrity as specified in STCW Code A-V/2.4.