

2010 STCW Amendments

In June 2010, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held a Diplomatic Conference in Manila, The Philippines to consider amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) and the STCW Code. Below are summaries of the most significant amendments agreed to for operators of coastal and oceangoing towing vessels affected by STCW. STCW does not apply to inland vessels.

Under a tacit acceptance procedure between participating nations, the amendments agreed to will come into force on January 1, 2012. The Coast Guard is drafting a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) to incorporate the adopted amendments, as well as the 1995 STCW amendments, into the Code of Federal Regulations.

2010 Amendments

Medical Certificates

- Medical certificates shall remain valid for a maximum period of **two years** unless the seafarer is under the age of 18, in which case the maximum period of validity shall be one year. (*Regulation I/9, #5 of the Convention*)

Minimum Rest Requirements

- All “who are assigned duty as officer in charge of a watch or as a rating forming part of a watch and those whose duties involve designated safety, prevention of pollution and security duties” must have: a) a minimum of 10 hours rest in any 24-hour period; and, b) a minimum of 77 hours rest in any 7-day period. (*Section A-VIII/1 of the Code*)
- The 10 hours of rest cannot be divided into more than two periods, one of which must be at least 6 hours in length. The intervals between rest periods within a day cannot be more than 14 hours. (*Section A-VIII/1 of the Code*)

Security Requirements

- There are mandatory minimum requirements for security-related training and instruction for mariners. (*Section A-VI/6 of the Code*)
 - Security-Related Familiarization Training: As part of this program, the mariner will be trained to: report a security incident; know the procedures to follow when recognizing a security threat; and, take part in security-related emergency and contingency procedures.
 - Security-Awareness Training: Mariners on board any vessel that is required to comply with the provisions of the International Ship and Port Facilities Security (ISPS) Code must receive approved training or instruction in security awareness.

- Training for Mariners with Designated Security Duties: Mariners designated to perform security duties must demonstrate competence to: maintain the conditions set forth in a vessel security plan; recognize security risks and threats; undertake the regular security inspections of the vessel; and, understand the proper usage of any security equipment and systems.

ECDIS Requirements

- For individuals working on vessels with an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS), there are the following requirements (these apply only to those who serve on vessels fitted with ECDIS):
 - For officers in charge of a navigation watch on vessels of 500 GT or more, there must be an examination and assessment of evidence obtained from either approved training ship experience or approved ECDIS simulator training. (*Table AII/1 of the Code*)
 - For masters and chief mates on vessels of 500GT or more, either approved in-service experience, approved training ship experience, or approved ECDIS simulator training is required. (*Table AII/2 of the Code*)
 - On vessels of less than 500 GT on near-coastal voyages, for officers in charge of a navigational watch and for masters, either approved training ship experience or approved ECDIS simulator training is required. (*Table AII/3 of the Code*)