

STCW

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

INCLUDING 2010 MANILA AMENDMENTS

STCW Convention and STCW Code

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INTERNATIONAL
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Table A-II/1

Specification of minimum standard of competence for officers in charge of a navigational watch on ships of 500 gross tonnage or more

Function: Navigation at the operational level

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Plan and conduct a passage and determine position	<p><i>Celestial navigation</i></p> <p>Ability to use celestial bodies to determine the ship's position</p> <p><i>Terrestrial and coastal navigation</i></p> <p>Ability to determine the ship's position by use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 landmarks .2 aids to navigation, including lighthouses, beacons and buoys .3 dead reckoning, taking into account winds, tides, currents and estimated speed <p>Thorough knowledge of and ability to use nautical charts, and publications, such as sailing directions, tide tables, notices to mariners, radio navigational warnings and ships' routing information</p> <p><i>Electronic systems of position fixing and navigation</i></p> <p>Ability to determine the ship's position by use of electronic navigational aids</p> <p><i>Echo-sounders</i></p> <p>Ability to operate the equipment and apply the information correctly</p>	<p>Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved training ship experience .3 approved simulator training, where appropriate .4 approved laboratory equipment training <p>using chart catalogues, charts, nautical publications, radio navigational warnings, sextant, azimuth mirror, electronic navigation equipment, echo-sounding equipment, compass</p>	<p>The information obtained from nautical charts and publications is relevant, interpreted correctly and properly applied. All potential navigational hazards are accurately identified</p> <p>The primary method of fixing the ship's position is the most appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions</p> <p>The position is determined within the limits of acceptable instrument/system errors</p> <p>The reliability of the information obtained from the primary method of position fixing is checked at appropriate intervals</p> <p>Calculations and measurements of navigational information are accurate</p> <p>The charts selected are the largest scale suitable for the area of navigation, and charts and publications are corrected in accordance with the latest information available</p> <p>Performance checks and tests to navigation systems comply with manufacturer's recommendations and good navigational practice</p>

Table A-II/1 (continued)

Function: Navigation at the operational level (continued)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Plan and conduct a passage and determine position (continued)	<p><i>Compass – magnetic and gyro</i></p> <p>Knowledge of the principles of magnetic and gyro-compasses</p> <p>Ability to determine errors of the magnetic and gyro-compasses, using celestial and terrestrial means, and to allow for such errors</p> <p><i>Steering control system</i></p> <p>Knowledge of steering control systems, operational procedures and change-over from manual to automatic control and vice versa. Adjustment of controls for optimum performance</p> <p><i>Meteorology</i></p> <p>Ability to use and interpret information obtained from shipborne meteorological instruments</p> <p>Knowledge of the characteristics of the various weather systems, reporting procedures and recording systems</p> <p>Ability to apply the meteorological information available</p>		<p>Errors in magnetic and gyro-compasses are determined and correctly applied to courses and bearings</p> <p>The selection of the mode of steering is the most suitable for the prevailing weather, sea and traffic conditions and intended manoeuvres</p> <p>Measurements and observations of weather conditions are accurate and appropriate to the passage</p> <p>Meteorological information is correctly interpreted and applied</p>

Table A-II/2

Specification of minimum standard of competence for masters and chief mates on ships of 500 gross tonnage or more

Function: Navigation at the management level

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Plan a voyage and conduct navigation	<p>Voyage planning and navigation for all conditions by acceptable methods of plotting ocean tracks, taking into account, e.g.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> .1 restricted waters .2 meteorological conditions .3 ice .4 restricted visibility .5 traffic separation schemes .6 vessel traffic service (VTS) areas .7 areas of extensive tidal effects <p>Routeing in accordance with the General Provisions on Ships' Routeing</p> <p>Reporting in accordance with the General principles for Ship Reporting Systems and with VTS procedures</p>	<p>Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved simulator training, where appropriate .3 approved laboratory equipment training <p>using: chart catalogues, charts, nautical publications and ship particulars</p>	<p>The equipment, charts and nautical publications required for the voyage are enumerated and appropriate to the safe conduct of the voyage</p> <p>The reasons for the planned route are supported by facts and statistical data obtained from relevant sources and publications</p> <p>Positions, courses, distances and time calculations are correct within accepted accuracy standards for navigational equipment</p> <p>All potential navigational hazards are accurately identified</p>
Determine position and the accuracy of resultant position fix by any means	<p>Position determination in all conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> .1 by celestial observations .2 by terrestrial observations, including the ability to use appropriate charts, notices to mariners and other publications to assess the accuracy of the resulting position fix .3 using modern electronic navigational aids, with specific knowledge of their operating principles, limitations, sources of error, detection of misrepresentation of information and methods of correction to obtain accurate position fixing 	<p>Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved simulator training, where appropriate .3 approved laboratory equipment training using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> .3.1 charts, nautical almanac, plotting sheets, chronometer, sextant and a calculator .3.2 charts, nautical publications and navigational instruments (azimuth mirror, sextant, log, sounding equipment, compass) and manufacturers' manuals .3.3 radar, terrestrial electronic position-fixing systems, satellite navigation systems and appropriate nautical charts and publications 	<p>The primary method chosen for fixing the ship's position is the most appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions</p> <p>The fix obtained by celestial observations is within accepted accuracy levels</p> <p>The fix obtained by terrestrial observations is within accepted accuracy levels</p> <p>The accuracy of the resulting fix is properly assessed</p> <p>The fix obtained by the use of electronic navigational aids is within the accuracy standards of the systems in use. The possible errors affecting the accuracy of the resulting position are stated and methods of minimizing the effects of system errors on the resulting position are properly applied</p>

Table A-II/2 (continued)

Function: Navigation at the management level (continued)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Competence	Knowledge, understanding and proficiency	Methods for demonstrating competence	Criteria for evaluating competence
Determine and allow for compass errors	<p>Ability to determine and allow for errors of the magnetic and gyro-compasses</p> <p>Knowledge of the principles of magnetic and gyro-compasses</p> <p>An understanding of systems under the control of the master gyro and a knowledge of the operation and care of the main types of gyro-compass</p>	<p>Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved simulator training, where appropriate .3 approved laboratory equipment training <p>using: celestial observations, terrestrial bearings and comparison between magnetic and gyro-compasses</p>	The method and frequency of checks for errors of magnetic and gyro-compasses ensures accuracy of information
Coordinate search and rescue operations	A thorough knowledge of and ability to apply the procedures contained in the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual	<p>Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved simulator training, where appropriate .3 approved laboratory equipment training <p>using: relevant publications, charts, meteorological data, particulars of ships involved, radiocommunication equipment and other available facilities and one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved SAR training course .2 approved simulator training, where appropriate .3 approved laboratory equipment training 	<p>The plan for coordinating search and rescue operations is in accordance with international guidelines and standards</p> <p>Radiocommunications are established and correct communication procedures are followed at all stages of the search and rescue operations</p>
Establish watchkeeping arrangements and procedures	<p>Thorough knowledge of content, application and intent of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended</p> <p>Thorough knowledge of the content, application and intent of the Principles to be observed in keeping a navigational watch</p>	<p>Examination and assessment of evidence obtained from one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .1 approved in-service experience .2 approved simulator training, where appropriate 	Watchkeeping arrangements and procedures are established and maintained in compliance with international regulations and guidelines so as to ensure the safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment and safety of the ship and persons on board

- .8 activities taking place on board the ship at any particular time, including radiocommunication activities, and the availability of assistance to be summoned immediately to the bridge when necessary;
- .9 the operational status of bridge instrumentation and controls, including alarm systems;
- .10 rudder and propeller control and ship manoeuvring characteristics;
- .11 the size of the ship and the field of vision available from the conning position; .12 the configuration of the bridge, to the extent such configuration might inhibit a member of the watch from detecting by sight or hearing any external development; and
- .13 any other relevant standard, procedure or guidance relating to watchkeeping arrangements and fitness for duty which has been adopted by the Organization.

Watch arrangements

18 When deciding the composition of the watch on the bridge, which may include appropriately qualified ratings, the following factors, *inter alia*, shall be taken into account:

- .1 at no time shall the bridge be left unattended;
- .2 weather conditions, visibility and whether there is daylight or darkness;
- .3 proximity of navigational hazards which may make it necessary for the officer in charge of the watch to carry out additional navigational duties;
- .4 use and operational condition of navigational aids such as ECDIS, radar or electronic position-indicating devices and any other equipment affecting the safe navigation of the ship;
- .5 whether the ship is fitted with automatic steering;
- .6 whether there are radio duties to be performed;
- .7 unmanned machinery space (UMS) controls, alarms and indicators provided on the bridge, procedures for their use and their limitations; and
- .8 any unusual demands on the navigational watch that may arise as a result of special operational circumstances.

Taking over the watch

19 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall not hand over the watch to the relieving officer if there is reason to believe that the latter is not capable of carrying out the watchkeeping duties effectively, in which case the master shall be notified.

20 The relieving officer shall ensure that the members of the relieving watch are fully capable of performing their duties, particularly as regards their adjustment to night vision. Relieving officers shall not take over the watch until their vision is fully adjusted to the light conditions.

21 Prior to taking over the watch, relieving officers shall satisfy themselves as to the ship's estimated or true position and confirm its intended track, course and speed, and UMS controls as appropriate and shall note any dangers to navigation expected to be encountered during their watch.

22 Relieving officers shall personally satisfy themselves regarding the:

- .1 standing orders and other special instructions of the master relating to navigation of the ship;
- .2 position, course, speed and draught of the ship;
- .3 prevailing and predicted tides, currents, weather, visibility and the effect of these factors upon course and speed;

- .4 procedures for the use of main engines to manoeuvre when the main engines are on bridge control; and
- .5 navigational situation, including, but not limited to:
 - .5.1 the operational condition of all navigational and safety equipment being used or likely to be used during the watch;
 - .5.2 the errors of gyro- and magnetic compasses;
 - .5.3 the presence and movement of ships in sight or known to be in the vicinity;
 - .5.4 the conditions and hazards likely to be encountered during the watch; and
 - .5.5 the possible effects of heel, trim, water density and squat on under-keel clearance.

23 If, at any time, the officer in charge of the navigational watch is to be relieved when a manoeuvre or other action to avoid any hazard is taking place, the relief of that officer shall be deferred until such action has been completed.

Performing the navigational watch

- 24 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall:
- .1 keep the watch on the bridge;
 - .2 in no circumstances leave the bridge until properly relieved; and
 - .3 continue to be responsible for the safe navigation of the ship, despite the presence of the master on the bridge, until informed specifically that the master has assumed that responsibility and this is mutually understood.
- 25 During the watch, the course steered, position and speed shall be checked at sufficiently frequent intervals, using any available navigational aids necessary, to ensure that the ship follows the planned course.
- 26 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall have full knowledge of the location and operation of all safety and navigational equipment on board the ship and shall be aware and take account of the operating limitations of such equipment.
- 27 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall not be assigned or undertake any duties which would interfere with the safe navigation of the ship.
- 28 When using radar, the officer in charge of the navigational watch shall bear in mind the necessity to comply at all times with the provisions on the use of radar contained in the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended, in force.
- 29 In cases of need, the officer in charge of the navigational watch shall not hesitate to use the helm, engines and sound signalling apparatus. However, timely notice of intended variations of engine speed shall be given, where possible, or effective use shall be made of UMS engine controls provided on the bridge in accordance with the applicable procedures.
- 30 Officers of the navigational watch shall know the handling characteristics of their ship, including its stopping distances, and should appreciate that other ships may have different handling characteristics.
- 31 A proper record shall be kept during the watch of the movements and activities relating to the navigation of the ship.
- 32 It is of special importance that at all times the officer in charge of the navigational watch ensures that a proper lookout is maintained. In a ship with a separate chartroom, the officer in charge of the navigational watch may visit the chartroom, when essential, for a short period for the necessary performance of navigational duties, but shall first ensure that it is safe to do so and that proper lookout is maintained.

33 Operational tests of shipboard navigational equipment shall be carried out at sea as frequently as practicable and as circumstances permit, in particular before hazardous conditions affecting navigation are expected. Whenever appropriate, these tests shall be recorded. Such tests shall also be carried out prior to port arrival and departure.

34 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall make regular checks to ensure that:

- .1 the person steering the ship or the automatic pilot is steering the correct course;
- .2 the standard compass error is determined at least once a watch and, when possible, after any major alteration of course; the standard and gyro-compasses are frequently compared and repeaters are synchronized with their master compass;
- .3 the automatic pilot is tested manually at least once a watch;
- .4 the navigation and signal lights and other navigational equipment are functioning properly;
- .5 the radio equipment is functioning properly in accordance with paragraph 86 of this section; and
- .6 the UMS controls, alarms and indicators are functioning properly.

35 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall bear in mind the necessity to comply at all times with the requirements in force of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974.* The officer of the navigational watch shall take into account:

- .1 the need to station a person to steer the ship and to put the steering into manual control in good time to allow any potentially hazardous situation to be dealt with in a safe manner; and
- .2 that, with a ship under automatic steering, it is highly dangerous to allow a situation to develop to the point where the officer in charge of the navigational watch is without assistance and has to break the continuity of the lookout in order to take emergency action.

36 Officers of the navigational watch shall be thoroughly familiar with the use of all electronic navigational aids carried, including their capabilities and limitations, and shall use each of these aids when appropriate and shall bear in mind that the echo-sounder is a valuable navigational aid.

37 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall use the radar whenever restricted visibility is encountered or expected, and at all times in congested waters, having due regard to its limitations.

38 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall ensure that the range scales employed are changed at sufficiently frequent intervals so that echoes are detected as early as possible. It shall be borne in mind that small or poor echoes may escape detection.

39 Whenever radar is in use, the officer in charge of the navigational watch shall select an appropriate range scale and observe the display carefully, and shall ensure that plotting or systematic analysis is commenced in ample time.

40 The officer in charge of the navigational watch shall notify the master immediately:

- .1 if restricted visibility is encountered or expected;
- .2 if the traffic conditions or the movements of other ships are causing concern;
- .3 if difficulty is experienced in maintaining course;
- .4 on failure to sight land, or a navigation mark or to obtain soundings by the expected time;
- .5 if, unexpectedly, land or a navigation mark is sighted or a change in soundings occurs;
- .6 on breakdown of the engines, propulsion machinery remote control, steering gear or any essential navigational equipment, alarm or indicator;

* See SOLAS regulations V/24, V/25 and V/26.