



SIGLINGASTOFNUN

Icelandic Maritime Administration
Ship Division
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Iceland

The Ministry of Transport
and Communications
Hafnarhusid v/Tryggvatötu
150 Reykjavik
Iceland

International Maritime Administration (IMO)
Human Element Section
Andy Windbow
4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR
ENGLAND

July 30 1998

Re. Information communicated to the Secretary-General by the Republic of Iceland pursuant to article IV of the STCW Convention.

Please find hereunder information on the steps taken by the Icelandic Government to give full and complete effect to the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995.

The STCW Committee* was established by the Minister of Transport and Communications to implement the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995. The whole STCW compliance process has taken somewhat longer time than had been estimated when Iceland ratified the 1995 Convention in 1995 and signed the amendments at the Conference. This has led to a delay in the legislative process resulting in a situation where a new legislation on the training, certification, manning and watchkeeping for seafarers, based to a large extent on the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995, could not be passed by the Icelandic Parliament, the Althingi, before its annual summer leave in June.

However, on account of the direct link between the Icelandic Maritime Administration, the Maritime Colleges in Iceland, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Education and the relevant interested parties the work of the Committee has been extremely effective in the short available time and the above parties have all proved very willing to facilitate in Iceland the implementation of the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995. The parties concerned are fully aware of the great importance of implementing a global system of standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers.

As of 1 December 1997, Iceland had not written the STCW Convention 1995 requirements into its legislation, partly because of an extensive change having taken place in the educational system, resulting for example in an the Upper Secondary School Act No. 80, 11 June 1996 (see enclosed document No. 16). The Act defines the framework for education at that level, its aim, the role and responsibility of the State and local municipalities, as well as other parties involved in providing education at this level. More detailed provisions regarding the implementation of upper secondary education are to be found in regulations which the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture issues on the basis of the law in effect.

* The Members of the STCW Committee:

Helgi Johannesson, Chairman, the Ministry of Transport and Communications,
Thorður Thordarsson, Icelandic Maritime Administration (email: thordur@sigling.is)
Sverrir Konradsson, Icelandic Maritime Administration (email: sverrir@sigling.is),
Guðjón Ármann Eyjólfsson, Principal of the College of Navigation in Reykjavik,
Björgvin Þór Jóhannsson, Principal of the Marine Engineering College of Iceland,
Hordur Larusson, Head of Department, the Ministry of Education,
Hilmar Snorrason, Headmaster of the Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre of Iceland.

A regulation for the College of Navigation in Reykjavik (and other colleges providing such education) and a regulation for the Marine Engineering College of Iceland have not yet been adopted on the basis of the Upper Secondary School Act and therefore these Colleges technically work on the basis of regulations based on the expired Acts on the above colleges (these regulations are enclosed).

Whereas currently, education, training and certification of seafarers in Iceland comes administratively under the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Icelandic Maritime Administration the whole process of STCW 95 compliance has been more time-consuming than had the whole procedure been under one governmental administration. In fact, the new legislation (Act and Regulation) on Training, Certification, Watchkeeping and Manning for Personnel serving on board Icelandic Ships, in line with the STCW 95 model, is based on the idea that seafarers' education, training, certification, quality control of the education and the manning of ships will be centrally administered by the Icelandic Maritime Administration although the schools will administratively remain under the Minister of Education, Science and Culture. The new legislation will be put before the Icelandic Parliament, the Althingi in the form of a Bill in October for adoption as law before the end of the year 1998. This Bill is not fully discussed and could change in the wake of consultations with the interested parties and the parliamentary process. Immediately after the Bill has been passed and the new legislation is in force, the Icelandic Maritime Administration will inform the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization on the matter and send the new legislation to the Organization.

In-service Training on Board

More specific provisions on in-service training of seafarers and the assessment of their work on board ships will be provided for in a special regulation. Currently negotiations are taking place on the implementation of this training between the Icelandic Maritime Administration and the Icelandic Shipowners' Association.

Information on the resulting arrangements will be submitted to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Administration as soon as an agreement has been reached with the shipowners.

The on-board practical training, the work conducted and the performed seamen who wish to commence studies in a maritime training institute to obtain certification of competence, will be assessed and documented in a special training record book (the training record book published by the International Shipping Federation will most likely be used).

Regarding the education and vocational training requirements for teachers and assessors, these are the same qualification requirements as for teachers at Icelandic special schools, in which there is a qualification requirement for a degree in pedagogy (from the University College of Education in Iceland), in addition to the vocational training requirement.

In connection with the in-service training on board ship or ashore a quality standard system will be established to monitor and ensure achievement of defined objectives.

The Current System of Revalidating Certificates

Issued certificates are valid for a period of 5 years. When certificates are revalidated they are valid for a period of 5 years. For revaluation, holders of certificates must present:

1. The last valid certificate.
2. Official records of seagoing service for the last 5 years.
3. New medical fitness certificate.
4. New medical certificate of eyesight and hearing.
5. New picture of certificate holder for certificate.

Certificates and numbering system

STCW-Certificates are issued by the Icelandic Maritime Administration, central office. The certification system is computerized, separated into two sections: for deck officers and marine engineer officers.

When issuing a new certificate the computer will automatically allocate a new unique number for that particular seaman's certificate. When that certificate will be revalidated later it will still hold the unique number allocated at the first time of issue.

Watchkeeping

Since 1981, the IMO watchkeeping standards have had the same priority as the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea in the training and education of Icelandic seafarers. The recommendations on operational guidance for officers in charge of a navigational watch were translated into Icelandic in 1981 and have since been taught in the College of Navigation in Reykjavik. The same applies to the Bridge Procedures Guide from the International Chamber of Shipping. The new STCW watchkeeping standards, as annexed to the new Regulation to be adopted in Iceland this autumn, will have the same priority status in the Maritime Colleges.

Documentation submitted in the Icelandic Language

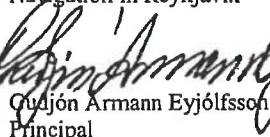
The most significant documentation submitted by Iceland to demonstrate compliance with the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995, is provided in English. However, a part of the documentation submitted has not been translated into English. The documents in Icelandic are mainly the examinations from the maritime colleges, most of which are highly technical. Translating these documents into English would have been very expensive and time-consuming. It is the hope of the STCW Committee that the persons assessing Iceland's documentation will be able to evaluate the scope of the examinations. However, if this would not be sufficient, the papers will be translated. Furthermore, the textbook on the training of ratings serving on board Icelandic merchant ships is submitted in the Icelandic language. However, we hope that the submission of the book is of importance as it gives an overall picture of the depth of the training, especially since explanations of many terms and concepts are in parenthesis in English.

We hope that the enclosed documentation and information will sufficiently demonstrate that Iceland has and will be implementing the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995, in a satisfactory manner. If any further information will be needed, the Icelandic Maritime Administration will be pleased to provide further documentation upon request.

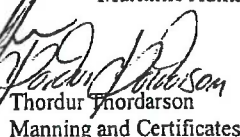
On behalf of the Ministry

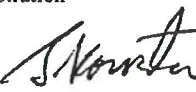

Helgi Jóhannesson
Chief of Division
Maritime Affairs

On behalf of the College of
Navigation in Reykjavik


Guðjón Armann Eyjólfsson
Principal

On behalf of the Icelandic
Maritime Administration


Thordur Thordarson
Manning and Certificates


Sverrir Konradsson
Manning

Text of laws, decrees, orders, regulations and instruments promulgated on matters within the scope of the Convention.

Pursuant to the requirements of article IV, paragraph 1(a), please find enclosed herewith one copy of each of the following instruments promulgated on matters within the scope of the STCW Convention.

Doc. No.

A) This document contains the name and address of the Icelandic Maritime Administration – the governmental agency having main and co-ordinating responsibility for implementing and administering the Convention and the relevant part of the organization chart for the Icelandic Maritime Administration.

1) A Bill on Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Personnel serving on board Icelandic Ships and their Manning Act No. xxx/1998.

2) A Bill on Training, Certification, Watchkeeping and Manning Regulation for Personnel serving on board Icelandic Ships No xxx/1998.

3) The Certification of Masters and Deck Officers serving on board Icelandic Ships Act No. 112/1984, as amended.

4) The Certification of Marine Engineers serving on board Icelandic Ships Act No. 113/1984, as amended.

5) The Certification of Masters, Deck Officers and Marine Engineers serving on board Icelandic Ships Regulation No. 118/1996, as amended.

6) The Crews of Icelandic Merchant Ships Act No. 59/1995, as amended.

7) The Crews of Icelandic Merchant Ships Regulation No. 269/1996.

8) The Registration of Seamen Act No. 43/1998.

9) [No document No. 9]

10) The College of Navigation in Reykjavik Regulation No. 174/1991, as amended

174/1991 ifstkr

11) Studies in Marine Engineering Regulation No. 216/1988.

12) The Ship Survey Act No. 35/1993.

13) Abstract from the Maritime Affairs Act (Shipping Casualty Inquiries provisions) No. 35/1984, as amended.

14) The Eyesight, Hearing and Medical Fitness of Deck Officers, Marine Engineer Officers, Engine Attendants and Ratings on Icelandic Merchant Ships Regulation No. 304/1993.

15) The Icelandic Maritime Administration Act No. 6/1996, with amendments by Act No. 38/1997. *Provides, e.g. for the Administration's responsibility for co-operation with international organizations and the implementation of international agreements on maritime issues on which Iceland is a party.*

16) The Upper Secondary School Act No. 80/1996.

- 17) The Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre Act No. 33/1991.
- 18) Examinations ^L in Deck Officers' and Masters' Training Regulation No. 175/1998
- 19) **Other documents containing information considered necessary to give a clear overview of the education and training of Icelandic seafarers and of maritime affairs in general:**
- 20) "The Educational System in Iceland" – The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, 1998. This document gives an overall picture of education in general in Iceland. Attention is drawn to the chapter on Upper Secondary Education in Iceland and the specialised vocational schools which offer programmes of study in preparation for specialised employment, i.e. the College of Navigation in Reykjavik (and other schools providing maritime education) and the Engineering College of Iceland. Also, this chapter explains the National Curriculum Guidelines, assessment and teachers' qualification requirements.
- 21) Overview of the Activities of the Icelandic Maritime Administration in 1997. This document gives a general overview of the statutory responsibilities of the IMA, etc.
- 22) Textbook used in the training of ratings serving on board Icelandic merchant ships. The textbook is submitted in the Icelandic language since translation funds are very limited. However, we hope that the submission of the book as it is gives an overall picture of the depth of the training. Also, explanations of many terms and concepts are given in parenthesis in English.
- 23) List of certificates under the STCW Convention '95 requiring endorsement of the flag state and registration by the Icelandic Maritime Administration or not.
- 24) Safe Manning Document (specimen). The form of the document submitted is in accordance with STCW 1978. However, the new Safe Manning Document annexed to the Bill on Training, Certification, Watchkeeping and Manning Regulation for Personnel serving on board Icelandic Ships [document No. 2] is based on STCW, as amended in 1995.
- 25) Nautical Training in Iceland; the College of Navigation in Reykjavik – Introduction of the College.
- 26) The College of Navigation, Reykjavík; Details of the content and duration of study courses – Grade 1.
- 27) The College of Navigation, Reykjavík; Details of the content and duration of study courses – Grade 2.
- 28) The College of Navigation, Reykjavík; Details of the content and duration of study courses – Grade 3.
- 29) The Marine Engineering College of Iceland; A Brief Introduction and Details of the Content and Duration of Study Courses.
- 30) Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre of Iceland (MSSTC); Curriculum.
- 31) Specimen Certificate based on the STCW, as amended in 1995.

- 32) Specimen Certificates issued to seamen by the Maritime Safety and Survival Training Centre upon successful completion of training courses.
- 33) Physical Examination Report on Eyesight, Hearing and Medical Fitness of Seafarers (form) [annexed to document No. 2].

~~Part 2~~

Information communicated pursuant to regulation I/7 and section A-I/7 of the STCW Code

1. Please find hereunder information on the steps taken by the Icelandic Government to give full and complete effect to the STCW Convention, as amended in 1995.
2. The governmental agency in Iceland having the main and co-ordinating responsibility for implementing and administrating the STCW Convention:

Icelandic Maritime Administration
Vesturvör 2
P.O. Box 120
220 Kópavogur
ICELAND
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3. The relevant part of the organization chart for the Icelandic Maritime Administration is illustrated below:

