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To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	<b>New training requirements for seafarers in polar areas</b>
Reference	Safety of navigation in Polar Regions

**Safety of navigation in Polar Regions**

In the IMO, the countries have just agreed on training requirements for seafarers on board ships in Arctic regions. Thus, the IMO still follows the plan for finalizing the Polar Code which is to enhance safety of navigation in Polar Regions.

At the first session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), the IMO took important steps towards finalizing the Polar Code. Now, draft specific training requirements for seafarers on board ships navigating polar areas are available. The requirements will be incorporated in the Polar Code as such.

The new requirements mean that masters and navigating officers must have special training in order to navigate ships in ice, while engineer officers and the rest of the crew must be trained in how to behave in situations of crisis, such as rescue operations. In addition, more comprehensive training requirements will be introduced for all seafarers on board tankers and passenger ships engaged on voyages in icy waters.

Other items of special interest on the agenda were the following:

- Education and training requirements for seafarers on board ships propelled by LNG.
- Reductions of administrative burdens (the use of GISIS).
- Maritime security certificates.
- IMO Model Courses.
- Safety training on board passenger ships.

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REFERENCES:

- IMO, human element, Polar Code, safe navigation

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