



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 687 of 7th June 2021

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE
Reference	IAMSAR, STCW

NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Amendments to the IAMSAR Manual

The Committee approved amendments to the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual for inclusion in the 2022 edition, which were prepared by the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue. Many of the amendments to the IAMSAR Manual are in support of the modernization of the GMDSS, recognizing mobile satellite service providers other than Inmarsat, and the amendments will become applicable 12 months after their adoption.

MATTERS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 Training and Certification Matters

After discussions within the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), the Committee approved the establishment of a correspondence group to develop harmonized guidance addressing the challenges seafarers have faced with regard to required training and certification under the STCW Convention.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States have independently developed a wide range of policies regarding the issuance, renewal, or extension of validity of seafarers' certificate/documents, and various policies on the required continuous training needed to maintain certification. The pandemic has given need for flexibility by States in extending the validity of seafarers' certifications, and recognition of the fact that the availability of refresher training for maintaining professional competencies has seen new obstacles. The Correspondence Group has been tasked to facilitate the harmonization of national interim measures related to these issues, and to develop guidance to be applied by STCW Parties. Due to a need for prompt action on this matter, the report of this Correspondence Group will be submitted directly to MSC 104 (October

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PROPOSALS FOR NEW OUTPUTS

The following items were considered for the current biennial and post-biennial agenda as well as other ongoing work of subcommittees.

Items for the biennial agenda

Revision of MODU Code provisions to prohibit use of materials and products containing asbestos:

To consider proposing amendments to the 1979, 1989 and 2009 MODU Codes to align them with the provisions of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-5 to prohibit the use of materials containing asbestos in the structure of mobile offshore drilling units and develop respective interpretations. The target completion year of this output is 2023.

Fire protection on containerships:

To consider the development of amendments to SOLAS chapter II-2 and the FSS Code concerning detection and control of fires in cargo holds and on the cargo deck of containerships. The target completion year of this output is 2025.

Extension of the requirements for emergency towing arrangements in SOLAS regulation II-1/3-4 to all types of ships:

To consider an extension of the requirements for emergency towing arrangements in SOLAS regulation II-1/3-4, applicable to tankers of not less than 20,000 tonnes deadweight, to all types of large new ships. The target completion year of this output is 2023.

Training manual for new entrant PSC personnel:

To consider the development of a training manual for new entrant PSC personnel. The target completion year of this output is 2023.

Development of IMSAS guidance to assist in the implementation of the III Code by Member States:

Subject to concurrent decisions by the MEPC, consider the development of guidance in relation to the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) to assist in the implementation of the III Code by standards.

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REFERENCES:

- IAMSAR, STCW

ATTACHMENTS: No

kindest Regards,
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