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AD HOC INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF
THE STW WORKING GROUP RELATING
TO THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
THE STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

1st session
Agenda item 4

STW/ISWG 1/4/12
8 August 2008
ENGLISH ONLY

REVIEW OF CHAPTER III OF THE STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

Review of regulation III/1

Submitted by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	In this document ITF does not agree with the proposal by some countries for deleting and/or or modifying the approved education and training of at least 30 months as presently required under regulation III/1, paragraph 2.3
Strategic direction:	5
High-level action:	5.2
Planned output:	5.2.2.1
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 10
Related documents:	MSC 81; STW 38/17; STW 39/7/10; STW 39/7/4; STW 39/7/39; and STW/ISWG 1/4

1 Following the endorsement of MSC 81 for a comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and the STCW Code, the STW Sub-Committee, at its thirty-eighth session, identified a list of areas to be considered. In its report (STW 38/17), it also identified eight basic principles, including that in the review we “do not downscale existing standards”.

2 Included in the revision were the provisions of regulations III/1, to ensure that education and training requirements in regulation III/1 are based on meeting the standards of competences, in accordance with the provisions of chapter III. It was also noted that the manner in which sea service has been applied differed between regulation II/1 and III/1.

3 In documents submitted by Austria *et al.* (STW 39/7/10) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (STW 39/7/4), it was proposed that a 30-month minimum requirement for certification of officers in charge of an engineering watch under regulation III/I be reduced to 12 months to comply with

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regulation II/I. The ITF, in document STW 39/7/39, annex 1, strongly contested this on the grounds that this did not adequately address the experience required by engineers, other than operation, to gain the necessary competence to safely operate and maintain a vessel.

4 As stated in document STW/ISWG 1/4, STW 39 had established a working group on the comprehensive review of chapters I, II, III, VI and VIII. The preliminary revised draft text of chapter III of the STCW Convention and Code, as prepared by the working group at STW 39, did not consider all the proposals of STW 39.

5 In this context, it should be noted that there was no agreement at this working group on the revised draft text. This is stated in the report of the working group (STW 40/7) that there was sufficient support for not making any changes in chapter III/1 with respect to “30 months of approved education and training” and chapters II and III deal with different disciplines requiring two different approaches.

6 The commentary recognized that no decision could be made at this session and forwarded documents STW 39/7/4 and STW 39/7/10 to the intersessional working group. The ITF notes that these documents only contain one view and would expect all positions and relevant documents to be reconsidered.

Considerations

7 During the considerations of the 1995 amendments to the STCW Convention, a number of factors were taken into consideration and included the following:

- .1 the source of engineers into a maritime career was broad based and that proper assessment was required to ensure that the engineer had appropriate education and training;
- .2 many of the skills acquired by engineers was best, or could only be, gained ashore and that sea service to obtain operational skills, as per chapter II/1, cannot not be a fair reflection of the experience required for the entirely different disciplines covered in chapter III/1; and
- .3 sufficient maintenance as well as operational experience cannot to be acquired within a 12-month period and competence is a combination of both knowledge and experience.

8 In its consideration of the skills required and the method of operation under the “UMS” situation it was agreed at the 1995 review, after extensive discussion, that the period could be reduced from three years to 30 months of approved training and experience as the minimum with a further six months sea service.

9 The ITF would agree that the six months sea service should specify “in a watchkeeping role” as this may not always be the case for those in a trainee assistant engineer officer position.

Action requested of the Group

10 The Group is invited to take into consideration the above concerns when reviewing chapter III of the STCW Convention and Code.