



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
41st session
Agenda item 7.3

STW 41/7/44
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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STCW CONVENTION AND THE STCW CODE

Regulation III/6

Submitted by the International Shipping Federation (ISF), the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and BIMCO

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document contains a proposal to ensure that the current and well established practice of employing Electrical officers or utilizing Engineer officers for certain electrical duties on board is not affected in the future by the provisions of the newly proposed non-mandatory certification of "Electro-Technical Officer"
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	5
<i>High-level action:</i>	5.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	5.2.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 7
<i>Related documents:</i>	STW 41/7/1 and STW 41/7/4

Introduction

1 The second *ad hoc* intersessional meeting of the STW Working Group on the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code was held from 7 to 11 September 2009. The Group prepared the draft amended text of chapter III of the STCW Convention and Code and, specifically, this included mandatory minimum requirements for certification of electro-technical officers (ETOs).

General

2 Noting the group's decision to introduce mandatory minimum requirements for certification of ETOs, the co-sponsors wish to bring to attention present industry practice with regard to the recruitment of qualified electricians to fulfil an optional role on board or the utilization of engineer officers to undertake certain electrical duties.

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3 To employ a person as an electrical officer on board at present, employers seek a suitably qualified shore professional. Companies then ensure that the person obtains the necessary STCW safety training and familiarization before working on board.

4 The co-sponsors appreciate and note the emphasis contained in the report of the second *ad hoc* intersessional meeting of the STW Working Group (STW 41/7/1, paragraph 4.25) where it reaffirms that the STCW Convention is an instrument related to standards of training and certification and not for manning requirements.

5 In consideration of this emphasis and the shortage of trained qualified personnel in the industry, the co-sponsors wish to stress that it is necessary to ensure that nothing in the STCW Convention or Code will prevent a suitably qualified and competent electrician from being employed on board any vessel and prevent that electrician from performing a related role on board without having gained the competences specified for certification as ETO.

Proposal

6 The co-sponsors therefore propose to insert a new paragraph 5 into the proposed regulation III/6 of STW 41/7/4:

“5 Notwithstanding the above requirements of paragraph 1-4, a suitably certified Engineer officer or qualified Electrical officer may be considered by a party able to perform certain functions of section A-III/6, where their relevant qualifications permit.”

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider this submission and take action as appropriate.
