4th Session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping
30 January to 3 February 2017

The fourth session of the Human Element Training and Watchkeeping Sub-Committee was held at the IMO Headquarters from 30 January to 3 February 2017 and was chaired by Ms. Mayte Medina (United States). The Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee, Ms. Farrah Fadil (Singapore), was also present.

The session was attended by delegations representing IMO Members and Associate Members; by representatives from the United Nations Programs, specialized agencies, and other entities; by observers from intergovernmental organizations with agreements of cooperation; and by observers from non-governmental organizations in consultative status, as listed in document HTW 4/INF.1. For the full report of items considered at this session, please see document HTW 4/16 Report to the Maritime Safety Committee. IADC was not represented at this session.

SUMMARY OF ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Validated Model Training Courses

The Sub-Committee accepted the principles for revision of model courses as proposed by the Secretariat. Also endorsed was the prioritization of model course categories as follows:

- Priority 1) New model courses to be developed as a result of new or amended IMO instruments
- Priority 2) Existing model course that require significant changes due to amended IMO instruments or substantial industry/technological changes

Two Drafting Groups were convened to consider nine draft model courses submitted for validation to this session. Once Drafting Group work was complete, the Sub-Committee validated four new model courses on:

- Basic training for ships operating in polar waters
- Advanced training for ships operating in polar waters
- Ratings forming part of a watch in a manned engine-room or duties performed in a periodically unmanned engine-room
- Ratings as able seafarer deck
Revised four model courses on:

- Assessment, examination, and certification of seafarers
- Training course for instructors
- On-board assessment
- Engine-room simulator

The secretariat was instructed to finalize and publish validated courses for access to the Member States.

Reports on Unlawful Practices Associated with Certificates of Competency

The Sub-Committee noted the information reported to the IMO detailing fraudulent certificates found on board ships for the years 2015 and 2016. 16 cases were documented by the Secretariat in total and categorized as “forged” or “fraudulent.”

Guidance for the Implementation of the 2010 Manila Amendments

The Sub-committee was instructed that MSC 96 recognized a need for guidance to be developed to account for the necessary clarity for implementation of the 2010 Manila Amendments. A Working Group was established to address the following concerns, *inter alia*:

- Guidance relating to the provision of documentary evidence required under the STCW Convention by seafarers to Port State Control officers and other 3rd-party inspection regimes
- Guidance on the training requirement for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (EDIS)
- Certificates referring to STCW 1995 amendments and response to requests for verification
- Officers being required to have separate STCW Chapter VI documentary evidence
- Delay in issuance of Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) and Electro-Technical Rating (ETR) certification

As a result of Working Group deliberations, the Sub-Committee approved the following guidance circulars:

- STCW.7/Circ.24 on Interim Guidance for Parties, Administrations, port State control authorities, recognized organizations and other relevant parties on the requirements under the /STCW Convention, 1978, as amended
- MSC.1/Circ.1503 on ECDIS – Guidance for Good Practice

The Sub-Committee will address remaining concerns at HTW 5 when implementation dates may be discussed for future amendments.

Revision of the Guidelines on Fatigue

The Sub-Committee agreed to recognize the work progressed at this session as the basis for continuing work on these guidelines at HTW 5. Due to time constraints at this session, the target completion of this work was extended to 2018. Member States are invited to submit relevant proposals addressing these guidelines to the next session of the Sub-Committee. The working group did not recommend a correspondence group to progress this work intersessionally.

Guidelines on the Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel (MSC.1/Circ.738/Rev.1)

The Sub-Committee instructed the Secretariat to prepare the draft MSC.1/Circ.738/Rev.2 Guidelines on the Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel and draft STCW.6 circular on
amendments to part B of the STCW Code to reflect the reference to the revised DP personnel guidance provided by IMCA’s M117.Rev 2 standard Training and Experience of Key Dynamic Positioning (DP) Personnel.