



MARITIME CIRCULAR

GUIDANCE NOTE NO: 014

THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA IMPLEMENTS AMENDMENT OF PART 'A' OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE

The Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) wishes to inform the Maritime Community especially Seafarers, Shipowner's, Seafarer's Recruitment and Placement Service Providers, Maritime Education and Training Institution (METI) and all persons desirous of pursuing seafaring as a vocation, of amendments adopted under the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping and the Seafarers' Training Certification and Watchkeeping Code, addressing the prevention and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault.

These amendments, aimed at combating and reducing violence and harassment in the maritime sector, were approved by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), taking into consideration recommendations of the ILO/IMO Joint Tripartite Working Group in May 2024 at its 108th session of the Maritime Safety Committee.

The amendments prescribe new mandatory minimum requirements for seafarers' training and instruction concerning the prevention of and response to sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying and other forms of harassment onboard ships.

Consequently, all seafarers holding Familiarisation and Basic safety training certificates issued by the GMA are required to undergo updated training as part of their basic safety course, as outlined in the STCW Table A-VI/1-4 on Basic Safety Training. The revised course shall cover the new requirements, focusing on the prevention and response to violence and harassment which enters into force on 1st January 2026.

Seafarers who have already undergone training by a GMA accredited METI in personal safety and social responsibilities (PSSR) before 17th November 2025 shall undertake supplementary training to be issued with an additional certificate indicating the fulfillment of new competencies relative to the new amendments in accordance with Resolution MSC 560 (108).

Meanwhile seafarers issued with new certificate of training under Section A-V/1 of the amended Table A-V/1-4 (including Familiarizations and Basic Safety Training) on specification on minimum standard of competence in PSSR which included the new amendments introducing new mandatory minimum requirements for seafarers training and competence on the prevention of and response to violence and harassment including sexual harassment bullying and sexual assault confirms meeting amendments in accordance with Resolution MSC 560 (108).

Seafarers holding a training certificate in PSSR issued by a GMA-accredited METI who are onboard vessels are advised to meet these new requirements upon signing off or prior to their engagement on a new contract.

All accredited METIs are to take note of the new amendments and to give full and complete effect to same on or before 1st January 2026. Training certificates for personal safety and social responsibilities should refer to Resolution MSC.560 (108), which should be stated on the overleaf of the training certificate.

The maritime community is hereby required to take note of this information.

Any enquiries relating to this circular should be directed to info@ghanamaritime.gov.gh



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