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WK 13629/2025 ADD 4 REV 2

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Shipping
Subject:	Preparation of IMO/HTW 12 (London, 23-27 February 2026) – Draft Union submissions to IMO’s 12th session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping providing draft amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention and Code to address gaps No. 185 and 189 - revised Presidency compromise

In view of the Shipping Working Party meeting on 3 November 2025, delegations will find attached a revised Presidency compromise proposal concerning the above-mentioned submission.

Changes compared to the previous document WK 13629/25 ADD 4 REV 1 are indicated with green highlight.

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE 1978 STCW CONVENTION AND CODE

Proposed draft amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention and Code to address gaps No. 185 and 189

Submitted by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the European Commission, acting jointly in the interest of the European Union

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides draft amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention and Code, in order to address gaps No. 185 and 189.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 6

Output: 6.17

Action to be taken: 5

Related documents: HTW 11/11 and HTW 12/6

Background

1 The Sub-Committee, at its eleventh session, agreed to the list of gaps identified in the STCW Convention and Code, as set out in annex 1 to document HTW 11/WP.4. The Sub-Committee also agreed to the commencement of phase 2 of the comprehensive review (HTW 11/11, paragraphs 6.34 and 6.35).

2 This document provides draft amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention and Code, in order to address gaps No. 185 and 189, in relation to the matter **where training and assessment in propulsion machinery and auxiliary steam systems are not included, in which case a limitation shall be noted on a certificate.** ~~on competence and Knowledge, Understanding and Proficiency items (KUPs).~~

Information to support the proposed amendments

3 Taking into account the information for the submission of proposals for phase 2 of the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, as set out in document HTW 12/6 (Secretariat), information to support the proposed amendments, is set out below:

Information to support the proposed amendments

Gaps No. ¹ 185 and 189	
Related documents, if any:	ISWG-STCW 1/2/11
Action requested:	addition
Available evidence, data, research, etc., if any, to support the proposed amendments:	N/A
Voluntary assessment on the possible cumulative impact (if the proposal aims at adding new training requirements, provide information on the cumulative impact on seafarer's training/certification and possible measures to address the impact):	Information on the cumulative impact: N/A
	Possible measures to address the cumulative impact: N/A

Proposal

4 It is proposed to amend Sections A-III/1, A-I/2 and B-I/2 of the Code, as set out in the annex.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the information and proposals in paragraphs 3 and 4; and the annex, and take action, as appropriate.

¹ Gap No. is listed in annex to document HTW 12/6.

ANNEX

Proposed draft amendment to Sections A-III/1, A-I/2 and Section B-I/2 of the Code

1 Sections A-III/1, A-I/2 and B-I/2 of the Code are proposed to be amended, as follows:

Section A-III/1

7 Candidates for certification for service in ships in which auxiliary steam boilers systems do not form part of their machinery may omit the relevant requirements of table A-III/1. A certificate awarded on such a basis shall not be valid for service on ships in which auxiliary steam boilers systems form part of a ship's machinery until the engineer officer meets the standard of competence in the items omitted from table A-III/1. Any such limitation shall be stated on the certificate and in the endorsement.

Section A-I/2

New Paragraph 43.1.

4 3.1. Where a limitation applies to a certificate of competency or endorsement, the limitation shall be explicitly stated on the certificate and any associated endorsements and shall also take into account the guidance given in part B of this Code.

5 4. In using formats which may be different from those set forth in this section, pursuant to regulation I/2, paragraph 10, Parties shall ensure that in all cases:

- .1 all information relating to the identity and personal description of the holder, including name, date of birth, photograph and signature, along with the date on which the document was issued, shall be displayed on the same side of the documents; and
- .2 all information relating to the capacity or capacities in which the holder is entitled to serve, in accordance with the applicable safe manning requirements of the Administration, as well as any limitations, shall be prominently displayed and easily identified.

Section B-I/2²

~~.8 A general limitation, such as the requirement to wear corrective lenses when performing duties, should be entered prominently at the top of this limitations column. Limitations applying to the functions listed in column .6 should be entered on the appropriate line against the function concerned, for example: The terminology must be unambiguous, consistently applied, and presented in a manner that ensures compliance with the requirements of Chapters II and III of the STCW Convention. Limitations should also be easily understood by relevant authorities and ship operators, particularly in contexts related to operational safety and duty assignment.~~
For example:

~~.8.1 "Not valid for service in tankers" – if not qualified under chapter V; "Not valid for service on ships using ECDIS – if the related knowledge has been omitted in accordance with STCW Code provisions;~~

~~.8.2 "Not valid for service in tankers other than oil tankers" – if qualified under chapter V for service only in oil tankers; "Not valid for vessels equipped with ARPA³" – if the related knowledge has been omitted in accordance with STCW Code provisions;~~

² Same changes as proposed in gap 135.

³ There may be a more modern term applied today; however, its possible application should be left to the decision of the HTW Sub-Committee.

.8.3 “Not valid for specialised propulsion systems like gas turbine, diesel-electric, or others” – if the related knowledge has been omitted in accordance with STCW Code provisions;

.8.4 “Not valid for service in ships in which auxiliary steam systems boilers form part of the ship’s machinery” – if the related knowledge has been omitted in accordance with STCW Code provisions; and

8.5 “Valid only on near-coastal voyages” – if the related knowledge has been omitted in accordance with STCW Code provisions.

Note: Tonnage and power limitations need not be shown here if they are already indicated in the title of the certificate and in the capacity entered in column .9.

.9 The capacity or capacities entered in this column should be those specified in the title to the STCW regulation or regulations concerned in the case of certificates issued under chapter II, or III or IV, or should be as specified in the applicable safe manning requirements of the Administration, as appropriate.

.10 A general limitation, such as the requirement to wear corrective lenses when performing duties, should be entered prominently at the top of this limitations column in each capacity stated also. The limitations entered in column .10 should be the same as those shown in column .8 for the functions performed in each capacity entered. The terminology must be unambiguous, consistently applied, and presented in a manner that ensures compliance with the requirements of Chapters II and III of the STCW Convention. Limitations should also be easily understood by relevant authorities and ship operators, particularly in contexts related to operational safety and duty assignment. For example:

.10.1 “Valid only on near-coastal voyages” – the defined limits of the near coastal voyage should be included in the CoC/endorsement

.10.2 “Limited to vessels with propulsion power less than 3,000 kW”

.10.3 “Limited to vessels less than 500 gross tonnage”

Note: Tonnage and power limitations need not be shown here if they are already indicated in the title of the certificate and in the capacity entered in column .9. The defined limits of the near coastal voyage pursuant to Reg I/3 para.6 need not be shown in this section (.10) if they are incorporated elsewhere on the endorsement.