

Augmentation of Fire prevention and fire-fighting course to include fire- fighting competencies for basic training for oil / chemical and liquefied gas tanker cargo operations

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

Examination, Assessment & Certification (EAC Branch)

**IS/ISO Clause
No. 7.1**

**Ref: QMS:
EACQP - 07 - 1**

Subject: Augmentation of Fire prevention and fire-fighting course to include fire- fighting competencies for basic training for oil / chemical and liquefied gas tanker cargo operations

File No.

**Authorized by:
Dy. CS / DDG**

Circular No: STCW 2010 Training Circular No. 03 of 2012

**Date:
12.01.2012**

As the shipping Industry and the seafarers are well aware, the 2010 Manila Amendments to the STCW Convention have entered into force on 1st January 2012, through the Tacit Amendment Procedure as laid down in the STCW Convention.

Chapter V of STCW 95 dealing with the special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships required an "approved shore-based fire-fighting course" in addition to the fire prevention and fire fighting course as per STCW A-VI/1-2 for the issue of tanker endorsement at level 1. However, the details of the "approved shore-based fire-fighting course" were neither clarified nor there were any Competency tables provided in the sections of chapter V or chapter VI of STCW Code 'A'. This inconsistency was pointed out during the comprehensive revision of STCW Convention.

It was proposed at IMO that advanced fire-fighting course may be mandatory for all tanker personnel including ratings, trainees and other categories of ship-board persons. However, no consensus could be arrived at and majority of IMO members were not in favor of mandating advanced fire-fighting course for support level personnel, particularly due to environmental concerns.

The issue was further debated at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and majority of the members decided that no additional fire-fighting course is necessary to meet this requirement and since this subject relates to familiarization or basic level training for tanker personnel, it would be better addressed as part of familiarization or basic level training for tankers. Therefore, it was decided to include the tanker fire-fighting competencies in the competency tables for basic training for oil/ chemical and liquefied gas tanker cargo operations.

In India, however, it was unanimously agreed that the practical aspects of the competencies related to "carry out fire-fighting operations" in the basic training for oil/ chemical and liquefied gas tanker cargo operations can be best addressed at the institutes imparting the 'fire prevention and fire-fighting Course' instead of being part of Class-room based tanker familiarization courses.

It is, therefore, decided to augment the existing 'fire prevention and fire-fighting Course' to include the practical aspects of the above competencies, viz. "carry out fire-fighting operations" in the basic training for oil/ chemical and liquefied gas tanker cargo operations as attached in [Annexure I](#).

Existing training institutes approved for fire prevention & fire-fighting courses are already imparting training which substantially complies with STCW 2010 requirements related to these competencies. However, such

institutes must now also have realistic fixed installations for using Foam & DCP (Dry Chemical Powder) for fire-fighting which will enable the candidates to have a real feel of handling fires which require fixed foam and DCP application, and familiarize them with the operation of the equipment under realistic conditions.

The design, installation and maintenance of the fixed Foam and DCP fire- fighting system shall be approved by a recognized organization (RO) i.e. Recognized Classification Society.

All training institutes approved by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) for conducting the 'fire prevention and fire-fighting Course' are hereby required to upgrade their facilities and equipment to impart the above training as per the above and forward the compliance report to the Training Branch of this Directorate latest within 3 months of date of issue of this circular. The Directorate shall make arrangements to verify such compliance within further period of 6 weeks and accordingly, all fire prevention and fire-fighting courses being conducted latest within 6 months of date of issue of this circular are required to be in compliance with this circular and the candidates are required to be issued with an "additional document" to certify training in the practical aspects of these competencies as attached in [Annexure II](#).

All candidates applying for basic level endorsement for oil, chemical or liquefied gas tanker under STCW 2010 will be required to provide documentary evidence of having undergone the above mentioned training as part of fire prevention and fire-fighting Course.

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping and ex-officio Additional Secretary to the Government of India, under the power conferred in the Chapter IX Rule 47 of Merchant Shipping (Standards of Certification & watch- keeping for Seafarers) Rules, 1998.

Sd/-

[D. Mehrotra]

Dy. Chief Surveyor