	CIRCULAR 2014-006		
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)		
	2015 AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT (ISM) CODE	Ref	MSC.353(92) SOLAS Ch. IX ISM Code Directive 03-2002

**Companies having assumed responsibility for the management and operation of ships registered in Antigua and Barbuda.
Seafarers engaged on ships registered in Antigua and Barbuda.
Recognized Organizations (ROs) of Antigua and Barbuda.**

Introduction:

The purpose of this Circular is to provide information and guidance to the owners, managers, Company Designated Persons Ashore and Masters of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, concerning amendments of the International Safety Management Code (ISM). Which come into force on 1 January 2015. These amendments are essentially clarifications of what has been best practice for many years. It is important that companies ensure that their vessels operate effective safety management systems as doing so ultimately benefits both their shareholders and seafarers in many ways.

The following amendments are made:

PART A – IMPLEMENTATION

6 RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

In order to clarify that the code covers all shipboard operations the existing text of paragraph 6.2 is replaced with the following:

"6.2 The Company should ensure that each ship is:


- .1 manned with qualified, certificated and medically fit seafarers in accordance with national and international requirements; and
- .2 appropriately manned in order to encompass all aspects of maintaining safe operations on board*.

* Refer to the *Principles of minimum safe manning*, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.1047(27)."

12 COMPANY VERIFICATION, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

In order to clarify that the Company also has responsibility to ensure that others delegated ISM related tasks conform with the code the following new paragraph 12.2 is inserted after existing paragraph 12.1 and the existing paragraphs 12.2 to 12.6 are renumbered as 12.3 to 12.7:

"12.2 The Company should periodically verify whether all those undertaking delegated ISM-related tasks are acting in conformity with the Company's responsibilities under the Code."

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The following footnotes are added:

1 In paragraph 1.1.10, the following footnote is added after the words "Major non-conformity":

"Refer to the *Procedures concerning observed ISM Code major non-conformities* (MSC/Circ.1059-MEPC/Circ.401)."

2 In paragraph 1.2.3.2, the following footnote is added after the word "account":

"Refer to the *List of codes, recommendations, guidelines and other safety and security-related non-mandatory instruments* (MSC.1/Circ.1371)."

3 The following footnote is added at the end of the title of section 3:

"Refer to the *Guidelines for the operational implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code by Companies* (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.5)."

4 The following footnote is added at the end of the title of section 4:

"Refer to the *Guidance on the qualifications, training and experience necessary for undertaking the role of the Designated Person under the provisions of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code* (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.6)."

5 The following footnote is added at the end of the title of section 8:

"Refer to the *Guidelines for a structure of an integrated system of contingency planning for shipboard emergencies*, adopted by the Organization by resolution A.852(20), as amended."

6 The following footnote is added at the end of the title of section 9:

"Refer to the *Guidance on near-miss reporting* (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.7)."

7 The following footnote is added at the end of the title of section 11:

"Refer to the *Revised list of certificates and documents required to be carried on board ships* (FAL.2/Circ.127, MEPC.1/Circ.817 and MSC.1/Circ.1462)."

The following new paragraph is added to the foreword of the publication of the Code:

"The footnotes given in this Code are inserted for reference and guidance purposes and do not constitute requirements under the Code. However, in accordance with paragraph 1.2.3.2, all relevant guidelines, recommendations, etc. should be taken into account. In all cases the reader must make use of the latest versions of the referenced texts of the document specified in a footnote, bearing in mind that such texts may have been revised or superseded by updated material."

September 2014