

	STCW Circ 2017-002	
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)	
	Training Requirements for Masters and Deck Officers on Ships operating in Polar Waters	Ref.: STCW Reg. V/4 IMO Circular Letter No. 3556

Circular Letter to:

all companies operating ships registered und the flag of Antigua and Barbuda W.I.
all ships registered under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda W.I.
all recognized Antigua and Barbuda Filing Agents

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) wishes to inform all parties concerned about training requirements for masters and deck officers on ships operating in polar waters.

Background

In November 2014 the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization on its 94th session adopted the “**International Code for Ships operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)**, as defined in SOLAS regulation XIV/1.1, which entered into force on 1 January 2017. Chapter 12 of the Polar Code requires companies to ensure that: *“master, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch on board ships operating in polar waters shall have completed training to attain the abilities that are appropriate to the capacity to be filled and duties and responsibilities to be taken up, taking into account the provisions given in the STCW Convention and Code, as amended.”*

Accordingly a new regulation (V/4) as well as a new section (A-V/4) was added to chapter V of the STCW Code and Convention 1978, as amended.

Masters, chief mates and officers in charge of a navigational watch on ships operating in polar waters must hold basic training certificates (in accordance with A-V/4, para. 1).

In addition **masters and chief mates** on ships operating in polar waters must also hold **advanced** training certificates (in accordance with A-V/4, para. 2). Every candidate for certification in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters is required to have basic training (in accordance with A-V/4, para. 1) and at least two (2) months of approved sea service in the deck department, at management level or while performing watchkeeping duties at the operational level, on ships operating in polar waters.

Transitional period until July 2020:

Until 1 July 2020, seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018 shall be considered to having met the requirements of a **basic** training by

- having completed approved **seagoing service** on board ships operating **in polar waters**, performing duties in the deck department at the **operational or management** level, for a period of at least **three months** in total during the preceding five years; or
- having successfully completed a training course meeting the training guidance established by the IMO (section B-V/g of the STCW Code) for ships operating in polar waters

Until 1 July 2020, seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018 shall be considered to having met the requirements of an **advanced** training by

- having completed approved **sea service** of at least **three months** at the **management level**, during the preceding five years on board ships operating **in polar waters**
- having successfully completed a **training course** meeting the training guidance established by the IMO (section B-V/g of the STCW Code) for ships operating in polar waters and having completed approved sea service of at least **two months** performing duties in the deck department at the **management level**, for a period in total during the preceding five years.

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**Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping
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