

# International Maritime Organization

## Training and certification of seafarers and coast station personnel

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Cafer Ozkan Istanbulu  
Technical Officer  
Maritime Safety Division  
International Maritime Organization

# Training and certification of seafarers

## STCW Convention and the Code

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### IMO Conventions

- More than 50 international conventions and protocols
- Three main categories:
  - Maritime safety
  - Marine pollution
  - liability and compensation
- Three main conventions:
  - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
  - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)
  - International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers ( STCW )

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## STCW Convention and the Code

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### **The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers**

- Adopted on 7 July 1978 and entered into force on 28 April 1984
- 167 States are Party to the STCW 1978 Convention
- Supplemented by the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code
  - part A, mandatory provisions
  - part B, recommended guidance

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### Key provisions of the STCW Convention

- Communication of information (Regulation I/7)  
([MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.13](#) refers)
- Quality standards (Regulation I/8)  
([MSC.1/Circ.1164/Rev.26](#) refers)
- Certificates and endorsements (Regulation I/2)  
(validity and authenticity [check](#))
- Control (Article X)

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### Articles of the STCW 1978 Convention

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### Annex to the STCW 1978 Convention

Chapter I      General Provisions

Chapter II      Master and deck department

Chapter III     Engine department

**Chapter IV     Radiocommunication and radio operators**

Chapter V      Special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships

Chapter VI     Emergency, occupational safety, security, medical care and survival functions

Chapter VII    Alternative certification

Chapter VIII   Watchkeeping

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### Chapter IV - Radiocommunication and radio operators

- Applies to radio operators on GMDSS-compliant ships only.
- Sets the minimum criteria for the certification of GMDSS radio operators.
- Requires radio operators to hold an appropriate radio operator according to the provisions of the [Radio Regulations](#).
- Provisions of Chapter IV are supported by STCW Code Part A and Part B.

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### **STCW Code, Part A, Chapter IV (Standards regarding radio operators)**

- Set out the minimum mandatory requirements for certification of a GMDSS radio operator.
- Outlines two competencies to:
  - Transmit and receive information using GMDSS sub-systems and equipment, and fulfilling the functional requirements of GMDSS; and
  - provide radio services in emergencies

### **STCW Code, Part B, Chapter IV (Guidance regarding radiocommunication and radio operators)**

- Outlines the scope of the training required for REO, GOC and ROC

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### IMO Model courses

1.25 - General Operator's Certificate for GMDSS, 2015 Edition

1.26 - Restricted Operator's Certificate for GMDSS, 2015 Edition

1.31 – Second-Class Radioelectronic Certificate for GMDSS Radio Personnel, 2002 Edition

### GMDSS Coast Station Operator's Certificate (CSOC) syllabus

[COMSAR.1/Circ.33/Rev.1](#)

### IMO maritime training institutions

World Maritime University ([WMU](#))

IMO International Maritime Law Institute ([IMLI](#))



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### Wrap up

- General information on the STCW Convention
- Key provisions and relevant IMO circulars
- Chapter IV (Radiocommunication and radio operators) and categories of radio operator certificates
- STCW Code
- IMO model courses and training institutions

# IMO's World Maritime Theme for 2024: "Navigating the future: **safety first!**"



## International Maritime Organization

4 Albert Embankment  
London  
SE1 7SR  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7735 7611  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210  
Email: [info@imo.org](mailto:info@imo.org)  
[www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)



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