



Maritime Circular No.57

To:

Ship – Owners / Managers / Operators, Registration Officers (RegOffs), SLMARAD Departments (All), All Parties Concerned

Subject:

Amendments to Section A-VI/1 of the STCW Code

Date:

10/11/2025

References:

STCW Convention, 1978 as amended, Resolution MSC.560 (108) (adopted on the 23 May 2024)

Purpose

To inform all concerned that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 108th session (May 2024), adopted amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), through Resolution MSC.560(108). These amendments introduce a new competence relating to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and sexual assault.

1. Application

This Circular applies to all Sierra Leonean Vessels.

2. Amendments to Part A of the Seafarer's Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) code.

Section A-VI/1 of the STCW Code is amended for training provisions to prevent and respond to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault.

3. Validity of Existing Certificates

Basic Training certificates issued prior to 1 January 2026 shall remain valid until their expiry date. Upon renewal, seafarers must complete the updated training covering the new competence.

Seafarers holding refreshed/renewal Basic Training certificates after 1 January 2026 must ensure that their certificates include the new competence ***"Contribute to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault."***

4. Action Required

All companies and seafarers are advised to take the necessary steps to ensure compliance before the entry into force date. Recognized Organizations are requested to circulate this information and assist in verifying compliance where applicable.

5. Effective date

The above policy will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

For additional information please contact SLMARAD at info@slmarad.com

Revision Status

Date	Revision	Comments - Changes
10/11/2025	0	Initial – Adopted