

# Amendments to STCW Code

Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators/ Surveyors/ Auditors

URC25029 06 November 2025

This circular aims to notify all stakeholders of forthcoming mandatory amendments to the STCW Code.

The IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), during its 108th session, adopted Resolution **MSC.560(108)**. This resolution introduces amendments to Part A of the Seafarer's Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code.

The official entry into force date for these amendments is **01 January 2026**.

## Details of Amendments

The primary modification involves the complete **replacement of Table A-VI/1-4** of the STCW Code. This table specifies the "minimum standard of competence in personal safety and social responsibilities" (PSSR).

The new table introduces **mandatory new competence standards** specifically related to the prevention of and response to workplace harassment. The resolution was adopted to address the need for training to "prevent and respond to bullying and harassment... including sexual assault and sexual harassment".

Key new competencies that all seafarers must demonstrate include:

- Basic knowledge and understanding of violence, harassment, bullying, and sexual assault.
- Understanding the consequences of these actions on victims, perpetrators, and overall safety.
- The ability to identify and intervene in, or report, incidents of violence or harassment.
- Basic understanding of trauma-informed response and providing appropriate support to victims.

**The full text of Resolution MSC.560(108), which includes the complete revised Table A-VI/1-4, is provided in the appendix to this circular for your detailed reference.**

## Action Required

Ship Owners, Managers, and Operators are responsible for ensuring that **all seafarers** serving on their vessels meet these new minimum standards of competence by the 01 January 2026 implementation date.

## Specific Requirement for Existing Personnel (Gap Training)

A critical point of compliance concerns existing seafarers whose PSSR certificates were issued *before* these amendments and remain valid past 01 January 2026.

1. **The Competency Gap:** Seafarers currently holding a valid PSSR certificate will **not** have received training covering these new mandatory competencies (e.g., harassment, bullying, and assault response).
2. **Owner's Responsibility:** The validity of the existing certificate *does not* exempt the seafarer from meeting the new minimum standards of competence required from 01 January 2026.
3. **Mandatory Familiarization:** Ship Owners and Managers **must implement "gap training" or supplementary familiarization** for all existing crew members to cover the specific new standards introduced by the revised Table A-VI/1-4.

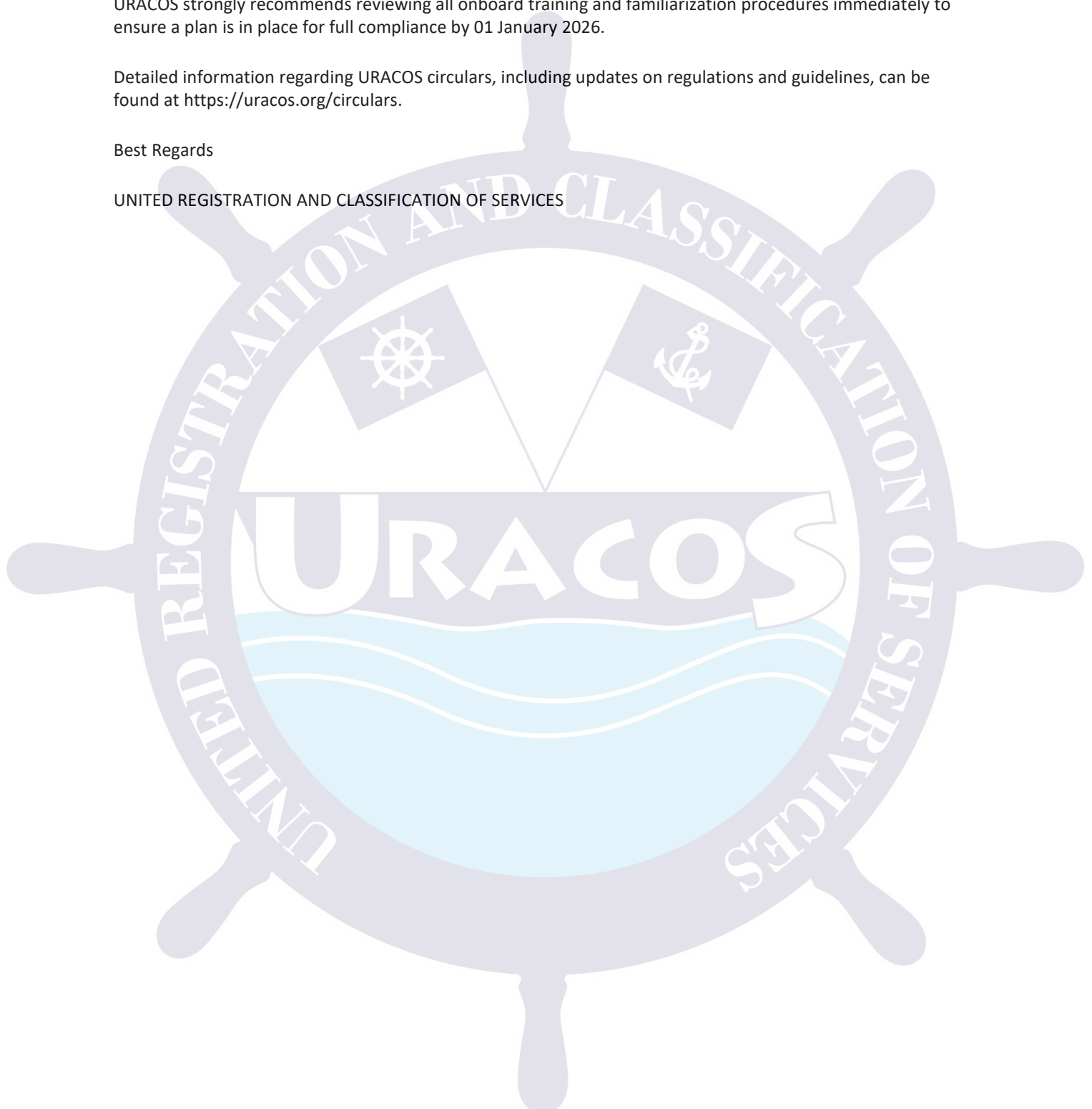
4. **Documentation:** This supplementary training (which may be conducted onboard) **must be documented and recorded** (e.g., via onboard training records, familiarization forms) to provide evidence of compliance during audits or Port State Control inspections.

URACOS strongly recommends reviewing all onboard training and familiarization procedures immediately to ensure a plan is in place for full compliance by 01 January 2026.

Detailed information regarding URACOS circulars, including updates on regulations and guidelines, can be found at <https://uracos.org/circulars>.

Best Regards

UNITED REGISTRATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SERVICES



**RESOLUTION MSC.560(108)**  
**(adopted on 23 May 2024)**

**AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING,  
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO article XII and regulation I/1.2.3 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 ("the 1978 STCW Convention"), concerning the procedures for amending part A of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code ("the STCW Code"),

RECOGNIZING the need for training provisions to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual assault and sexual harassment,

HAVING CONSIDERED, at its 108th session, amendments to part A of the STCW Code, proposed and circulated in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(i) of the 1978 STCW Convention,

1 ADOPTS, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(iv) of the 1978 STCW Convention, amendments to the STCW Code, the text of which is set out in the annex to the present resolution;

2 DETERMINES, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(vii)(2) of the 1978 STCW Convention, that said amendments to the STCW Code shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2025, unless, prior to that date, more than one third of Parties or Parties the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more have notified to the Secretary-General of the Organization that they object to the amendments;

3 INVITES Parties to note that, in accordance with article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the 1978 STCW Convention, the amendments to the STCW Code annexed hereto shall enter into force on 1 January 2026 upon their acceptance, in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4 URGES Parties to implement the amendments to section A-VI/1 of the STCW Code at an early stage;

5 REQUESTS the Secretary-General, for the purposes of article XII(1)(a)(v) of the 1978 STCW Convention, to transmit certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex to all Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention;

6 ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary-General to transmit copies of this resolution and its annex to Members of the Organization which are not Parties to the 1978 STCW Convention.

ANNEX

**AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE SEAFARERS' TRAINING,  
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING (STCW) CODE**

**CHAPTER VI  
STANDARDS REGARDING EMERGENCY, OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY,  
SECURITY, MEDICAL CARE AND SURVIVAL FUNCTIONS**

**Section A-VI/1**

*Mandatory minimum requirements for safety familiarization, basic training and instruction for all seafarers*

1 Table A-VI/1-4 (Specification of minimum standard of competence in personal safety and social responsibilities) is replaced by the following:

| Column 1                         | Column 2  | Column 3   | Column 4   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Competence                       | Knowledge, understanding and proficiency  | Methods for demonstrating competence   | Criteria for evaluating competence   |
| Comply with emergency procedures | Types of emergency which may occur, such as collision, fire, foundering<br><br>Knowledge of shipboard contingency plans for response to emergencies<br><br>Emergency signals and specific duties allocated to crew members in the muster list; muster stations; correct use of personal safety equipment<br><br>Action to take on discovering potential emergency, including fire, collision, foundering and ingress of water into the ship<br><br>Action to take on hearing emergency alarm signals<br><br>Value of training and drills<br><br>Knowledge of escape routes and internal communication and alarm systems | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | Initial action on becoming aware of an emergency conforms to established emergency response procedures<br><br>Information given on raising alarm is prompt, accurate, complete and clear |

| Column 1  | Column 2  | Column 3   | Column 4   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Competence  | Knowledge, understanding and proficiency  | Methods for demonstrating competence   | Criteria for evaluating competence   |
| Take precautions to prevent pollution of the marine environment | <p>Basic knowledge of the impact of shipping on the marine environment and the effects of operational or accidental pollution on it</p> <p>Basic environmental protection procedures</p> <p>Basic knowledge of complexity and diversity of the marine environment</p>   | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | Organizational procedures designed to safeguard the marine environment are observed at all times                   |
| Observe safe working practices                                  | <p>Importance of adhering to safe working practices at all times</p> <p>Safety and protective devices available to protect against potential hazards aboard ship</p> <p>Precautions to be taken prior to entering enclosed spaces</p> <p>Familiarization with international measures concerning accident prevention and occupational health</p> | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | Safe working practices are observed and appropriate safety and protective equipment is correctly used at all times |
| Contribute to effective communications on board ship            | <p>Understand the principles of, and barriers to, effective communication between individuals and teams within the ship</p> <p>Ability to establish and maintain effective communications</p>   | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | Communications are clear and effective at all times  |
| Contribute to effective human relationships on board ship       | <p>Importance of maintaining good human and working relationships aboard ship</p> <p>Basic teamworking principles and practice, including conflict resolution</p>   | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | Expected standards of work and behaviour are observed at all times   |

| Column 1  | Column 2  | Column 3   | Column 4  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Competence  | Knowledge, understanding and proficiency  | Methods for demonstrating competence   | Criteria for evaluating competence  |
|   | Social responsibilities; employment conditions; individual rights and obligations; dangers of drug and alcohol abuse  |  |   |
| Contribute to the prevention of and response to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault | <p>Prevention of violence and harassment:</p> <p>Basic knowledge and understanding of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault, and the continuum of harm</p> <p>Basic knowledge and understanding of the consequences of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault on victims, perpetrators, bystanders and stakeholders, and its effects on safety, health and well-being</p> <p>Understand that, among others, abuse of power relations, discrimination, stress, isolation, fatigue, drugs or alcohol may contribute to violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault</p> <p>Responding to violence and harassment:</p> <p>Ability to identify violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault</p> <p>Basic knowledge of the action to take to intervene in and report violence and</p> | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | <p>Acceptable practices and procedures designed for the prevention of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault are observed at all times</p> <p>Able to identify violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault, and the continuum of harm and its effects</p> <p>Acceptable practices and procedures designed for the intervention in and reporting of violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault are observed at all times</p> |

| Column 1   | Column 2  | Column 3   | Column 4  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Competence   | Knowledge, understanding and proficiency  | Methods for demonstrating competence   | Criteria for evaluating competence  |
|  | <p>harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault</p> <p>Understand the basic principles of trauma-informed response and how to provide appropriate support to a victim, bystanders and self</p>  |  |   |
| Understand and take necessary actions to control fatigue | <p>Importance of obtaining the necessary rest</p> <p>Effects of sleep, schedules and the circadian rhythm on fatigue</p> <p>Effects of physical stressors on seafarers</p> <p>Effects of environmental stressors in and outside the ship and their impact on seafarers</p> <p>Effects of schedule changes on seafarer fatigue</p> | Assessment of evidence obtained from approved instruction or during attendance at an approved course | Fatigue management practices are observed and appropriate actions are used at all times |

