



NIUE SHIP REGISTRY

Website: www.niueship.com

SECURITY RELATED TRAINING FOR SEAFARERS (Circular NMC7.2013 (rev1))

PURPOSE: To inform ship owners, managers, masters and ROs to implement measures to ensure that all seafarers on board vessels applicable to ISPS Code to comply with the mandatory minimum requirements for security-related training, and acquire the appropriate documentary evidence of training prior 1 January 2014.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. STCW Chapter VI Regulation VI/6 – Mandatory minimum requirements for security-related training and instruction for all seafarers.
2. IMO MSC/Circ.918

INTRODUCTION:

1. In accordance with the Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code that has entered into force on 1 January 2012, the transition provisions on the security-related training and instruction for all seafarers shall cease to be applicable by 01 January 2014.
2. After 01 January 2014, all seafarers are required to comply with the mandatory minimum requirements for security-related training and instruction in accordance with the STCW Chapter VI Regulation VI/6 when serving on board ISPS Code compliant vessels.

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all Niue flagged ships that are required to comply with the provisions of the ISPS Code.

A. SECURITY-RELATED FAMILIARISATION TRAINING ON BOARD SHIP

1. Seafarers employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship are to receive security-related familiarisation training before being assigned to any shipboard duties. The security-related familiarisation training shall enable the seafarer to:
 - 1.1. report a security incident, including a piracy or armed robbery threat or attack;
 - 1.2. know the procedures to follow when they recognise a security threat; and
 - 1.3. take part in security-related emergency and contingency procedures.
2. The security-related familiarisation training shall be conducted by the Ship Security Officer or an equally qualified person and take into account the guidance given in STCW Code B, Section B-VI/6.
3. Evidence of such familiarisation training conducted shall be kept onboard under the ship's Safety Management System and shall be available for review by relevant Recognised Organisations and ISM Code auditors.
4. The Ship Security Plan may be amended to include the above requirements or incorporate the requirements of the onboard training into the Safety Management System of the vessel. The Recognised Organisation shall be informed of any amendments made.

B. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SEAFARERS WITH DESIGNATED SECURITY DUTIES

1. Every seafarer who is designated to perform security duties, including anti-piracy and anti-armed-robbery-related activities, shall meet the standards of training as stipulated in the STCW Code Section A-VI/6, paragraph 6 to 8.
2. On completion of this training, the seafarer should be issued with an STCW Certificate of Proficiency (COP) and meet the competence standards given in STCW Code Table A-VI/6-2.
3. Transitional provisions:
 - 3.1. Until 1 January 2014, seafarers who commenced seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012 shall be able to demonstrate competence to undertake the tasks, duties and responsibilities listed in column 1 of table A-VI/6-2 of the STCW Code by:
 - 3.1.1. approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel, for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or
 - 3.1.2. having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service as required in the above paragraph 3.1.1; or
 - 3.1.3. passing an approved test; or
 - 3.1.4. successfully completing approved training.

C. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SECURITY-AWARENESS TRAINING

1. Seafarers, without designated security duties, employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship are to receive security-awareness training before being assigned to any shipboard duties.
2. On completion of this training which may form part of an approved shore-based course, the seafarer should be issued with an STCW COP and be able to meet the competence standards given in STCW Code Table A-VI/6-1.
3. Transitional provisions:
 - 3.1. Until 1 January 2014, seafarers who commenced seagoing service prior to 1 January 2012 shall be able to establish that they meet the requirements of Section A-VI/6, paragraph 4 by:
 - 3.1.1. approved seagoing service as shipboard personnel, for a period of at least six months in total during the preceding three years; or
 - 3.1.2. having performed security functions considered to be equivalent to the seagoing service as required in the above paragraph 3.1.1; or
 - 3.1.3. passing an approved test; or
 - 3.1.4. successfully completing approved training.

D. RECOGNITION OF SECURITY AWARENESS COPs ISSUED BY OTHER MARITIME AUTHORITIES

Niue recognizes Security Awareness COPs that are issued in accordance with the STCW Convention under the authority of a maritime authority which is in the STCW "white" list. There is no need for any endorsement by Niue to recognise such COP.

E. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

1. The transitional provisions for the requirements of Sections (B) and (C) above have ended on 1 January 2014.
2. However, during the IMO Sub-Committee session on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping from 17 to 21 February 2014, the Sub-Committee recognized that seafarers on board ships may not yet hold certification in security awareness training or training on designated security duties, required by regulation VI/6 and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6, and agreed that until 1 July 2015, in cases where a seafarer does not hold certification in security awareness training or training on designated security duties, in accordance with regulation VI/6 of the STCW Convention and section A-VI/6, paragraphs 4 and 6 of the STCW Code, it would be sufficient to accept compliance with section 13 of the ISPS Code. Please refer to STCW.7/Circ.21 dated 25 February 2014.
3. Niue understands that it is impractical and inconvenient for seafarers who have commenced an approved seagoing service prior to 1 January 2014 to sign-off on short notice in order to obtain the required COP for security-related training. As such, seafarers who fall into this category may apply to the Administration for a grace period of up till 1 July 2015 (in line with the recommendations of STCW.7/Circ.21) in order to have ample time to sign-off and obtain their COP after attending the relevant training. However, all seafarers who join a vessel after 1 January 2014 should already hold the required COP for security-related training to comply with STCW VI/6 before boarding the vessel.
4. Notwithstanding the above, Niue strongly recommends that owners / managers take measures as soon as possible to ensure that all seafarers to meet the amended provisions of STCW VI/6.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Registry at operations@niueship.com or call: +65 6226-2001 for further assistance.